

## BLACK LEGION SENDS THREATS

DETROIT, Feb. 19 (I.N.S.)—A bullet, with the Black Legion's insignia, received in the mail by Civil Service Commissioner Harry A. Smith, of Highland Park, was the center of an investigation today by postal authorities.

The bullet, a .38-caliber automatic pistol cartridge, with its nose sliced off and with an inscribed cross was received Wednesday by Smith. It was mailed in Detroit.

Smith told authorities he believed the Black Legion had sent him the bullet because of his activity as a member of the commission in purging the civil service of alleged riders during the legion expose.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Crowl .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Hottel .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. McIntire .....
Mr. Naughton .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Pennington .....
Mr. Rosen .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

61-7398-A

FEB 19 1938  
WASH TIMES

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# FLORIDA MOVES TO PROBE BLACK LEGION CHARGES

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 19 (UP).—State's Attorney Rex Farrior today prepared to subpoena Maurice McMahon of Detroit to explain charges of Black Legion conditions in Tampa which he made in a Michigan newspaper. McMahon wrote the letter from Miami.

It was addressed to the Highland Park, Detroit suburban newspaper, and charged a Black Legion group controlled the City Hall, committed several murders, tarred and feathered many victims and left them to die in the woods.

Farrior said he would seek to have McMahon testify when the Tampa flogging cases are reopened in April. MacMahon charged most of the floggings were committed by police who were members of the Black Legion.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Daughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
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NEW YORK POST

Forwarded by New York Office

FEB 19 1937

61-7398-A

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## BLACK LEGION QUIZ SLATED

International News Service

Outlining its future program, the Senate civil liberties committee announced today it will investigate the terroristic practices of the Black Legion and other vigilante groups.

In a report filed in the Senate today Senator LaFollette (P.), of Wisconsin, said:

"There remains a much broadened and more important work to be done than probing labor spying. Among its other obligations in this inquiry, your committee must study vigilante and violence groups such as the Black Legion."

He declined comment when asked if investigators had begun an investigation of the Black Le-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

## BLACK LEGION QUIZ SLATED

(Continued from Page 1)

gion, whose leaders are serving prison terms for the murder of a FWA worker in Detroit.

Spying Called Habit

Labor spying has become a habit in American industry and as long as it exists it will block collective bargaining, the Senate was told in the report.

The report was filed in support of the committee's request for \$50,000 to continue. It said:

"From your committee's still fragmentary inquiry in this field of its investigation, it is clear that espionage has become a habit of American management.

"Until it is stamped out the right of labor to organize, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly will be meaningless phrases. Men cannot meet freely to discuss their grievances or organize for economic betterment; they may not even express opinions on political or religious subjects so long as the machinery of espionage pervade their daily life."

Fear List Expose

On the ground that it would "lead to murder," the Pinkerton Detective Agency declined today to make public its list of secret labor spies.

### Law to End Lynching Demanded by Wagner

New York, Feb. 12 (AP).—Senator Wagner (Democrat), New York, in a Lincoln anniversary radio address tonight, demanded Federal anti-lynching legislation to "vindicate the principles for which Abraham Lincoln gave his life."

"The crime of lynching," the Senator said, "is one of the most threatening evils . . . which must be eradicated. . . . In 11 cases out of 12 it is directed against that very race which Lincoln released from physical bondage."

## 25 Are Indicted In Flogging by 'Black Leg' Cult

Band Was Sworn to Torture,  
Burn and Kill 'Gossips,'  
Prosecutor Charges

7 Arrested, 18 Hunted

Alleged to Have Beaten  
and Robbed Storekeeper

By The Associated Press

PRESTONSBURG, Ky., Jan. 7.—Twenty-five men alleged to belong to the 'Black Leg' Legion were indicted here today. They were charged with beating and robbing a country storekeeper who had criticized operations of the band in adjoining Magoffin County.

Commonwealth's Attorney O. C. Hall said the members of the band were sworn to "torture, burn and kill" any who talked about them, and at Sulleyville. Commonwealth's Attorney Earl R. Cooper said they had organized to punish persons who were "not working, or were filthy in their homes or didn't send their children to school."

Seven of those indicted here were pinned in jail with bonds fixed at \$10,000 each, and Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said that Jim Marshall, one of those indicted, had offered to plead guilty and turn state's evidence. Deputy sheriffs were sent out after the eighteen still at large.

Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said Marshall told him the members of the band were under oath to "hang, burn and kill any man who squealed" and that he was "mighty afraid for himself."

In Maroffin County indictments were returned more than a year ago. Three trials ended in hung juries, and finally two men pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and paid fines of \$150 each. The others were placed under peace bonds last September "there has been no trouble since then in Magoffin County," Cooper said.

The indictment returned today charged that the men banded together and took Miles Barnett, a forty-year-old farmer and country storekeeper, from his home last April and beat him. Hall said some members of the band went to the near-by home of Walter Watkins under orders to "blow his head off" if he were aroused by their actions and tried to aid Barnett. Barnett's wife and aged mother-in-law, who were in the house when Barnett was taken out, were not harmed. Barnett went to McQuinn, Ohio, after that, but returned this week to testify.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....

U. S. MARSHAL SERVICE  
Forwarded by New York Office  
JAN 8 - 1937

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# PEG LEG WHITE IS DEAD; INDICTED IN BLACK KLAN

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 21 (AP).—Death here of Isaac (Peg Leg) White removed his name from among the twenty-two men indicted in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism in connection with alleged activities of the Black Legion.

White succumbed yesterday to lobar pneumonia without disclosing his part in founding and fostering the terrorist gang. His body remained in a funeral home awaiting arrangements for shipment to Detroit for burial.

A cold, which White was suffering from at the time of his arrest near here last Monday, developed into pneumonia. Dr. W. F. Williams, Allegany County physician, said he was in a coma four hours before death.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Roper	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Lundy	.....

*Handwritten signature: Peg Leg White*

THE YORK POST

Printed by York Office

Dec 21 1936

## Black Legion's Organizer Dies

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 20 (AP).—Isaac "Pex Leg" Stull White, arrested near here as the founder of the Black Legion terror gang of Michigan, died in a hospital today of complications arising from lobar pneumonia.

White died without talking about his activities in the Black Legion. He was captured Monday at Oldtown, a village near here.

White was one of 22 alleged members of the Black Legion who were indicted in Detroit several months ago on charges of criminal syndicalism.

Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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NEW YORK TIMES

Recorded by New York Office

DEC 21 1936

**Accused Black Legion  
Founder Is Ill**

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 16 (A. P.).—Isaac (Pegleg) White, reputed founder of the Black Legion terrorist gang, was seriously ill with pneumonia today in a hospital here.

Late last night, Dr. William F. Williams, Allegheny county physician, said White's condition was very serious and that he was running a temperature of 104. Dr. Williams said White's condition was such that it was possible for him to suffer a turn for the worse very quickly.

White was arrested near here Monday. He and twenty-one others face trial in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism.

NEW YORK SUN

Forwarded by New York Office

DEC 16 1936



## KILLS OVER TAUNTS ON BLACK LEGION

Pontiac Fire Captain Shoots  
Subordinate Who 'Talked Too  
Much,' Ends Own Life.

### INQUIRY LISTED HIS NAME

Five of Cult at Detroit Get Life  
Terms in Slaying of Negro  
for 'Target Practice.'

PONTIAC, Mich., Dec. 4 (AP).—Fire Captain William H. Bradburn shot and killed a fellow-fireman and committed suicide today. He acted in resentment at taunts about his alleged membership in the Black Legion, according to Frank Nelson, acting Chief of Police.

Bradburn was named by a grand jury recently as a member of the society of hooded night-riders. His victim was Donald H. Slusher.

The bodies were found in the kitchen of the fire station Bradburn commanded. On the captain's desk was a note to Fire Chief Frank W. Kuhn, which said: "He talked too much. He should have been changed."

Nelson said he was told that Slusher had directed many jibes at the fire captain. He expressed the belief that the captain brooded over the taunts and the possibility of dismissal.

The grand jury named nineteen Pontiac policemen and firemen as Black Legion members. Police Chief Charles McMillan, one of those named, was removed by the police and fire trial board. City

Manager William P. Edmonson planned charges against all those named.

Late today the police and firemen's board dismissed from the Police Department Sergeant Walter A. Pierce, former head of the vice squad, one of those accused of membership in the Black Legion. Pierce, who had been under suspension, failed to appear at the board trial.

### Five Get Life Sentences

DETROIT, Dec. 4 (AP).—Five Black Legion members convicted of killing a 42-year-old Negro for "target practice" received life sentences here today.

Judge Donald Van Zile of Recorder's Court pronounced the mandatory sentences on Harvey Davis, Ervin D. Lee and John Banerman, all already facing life terms for the Black Legion "execution" of Charles Poole, and on Charles Rouse and James Roy Lorraine. All were convicted of first-degree murder.

Judge Van Zile, commenting on

the killing of Silas Coleman, Negro war veteran, May 22, 1935, told the defendants:

"It is hard to understand why you killed this man, who had never done anything to you and whom you did not even know."

Dayton Dean, Black Legion "trigger-man," also under life sentence in the Poole killing, had testified he helped entice Coleman to a lake for "target practice" because Davis "wanted to see what it felt like to kill a Negro."

Preparing for another Black Legion trial, Common Pleas Judge Ned H. Smith ordered three men held for higher court. They are Arthur Lupp, accused of commanding the terrorist society in Michigan; Charles Baker and Frank Howard. They are charged with conspiring to kill Arthur Kingsley, a publisher in suburban Highland Park.

N. Ray Markland, former Mayor of Highland Park, was dismissed as a defendant when prosecutors said they had no evidence against him.

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# INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

June 3, 1936

By United Press

WASHINGTON, June 3.—Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings today revealed the Department of Justice has been aware of the existence of the Michigan Black Legion for "about a year."

# INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

June 3, 1936

WASHINGTON, June 3 (A.P.)—Homer S. Cummings, attorney-general, said this afternoon he has known about the Black Legion for "about a year," but has not found any federal law being violated by the organization "either then or now."

The attorney-general said Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne county prosecutor, has not furnished the justice department any evidence of violation of federal laws in the Black Legion's activities in Michigan.

*Handwritten signature: H. A. [unclear]*

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
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Mr. Coffey	.....
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Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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*Handwritten signature: Emmet [unclear]*

61-7398-A

## KIDNAPING STORY OF FARMER PROBED

Abducted and Hanged From Tree  
by Trousers, Alleged Vic-  
tim Says.

By the Associated Press.

MOUNT CARROLL, Ill., June 3.—Reese Spellman's story that he was kidnaped and hanged from a tree by night riders employing the terror tactics of the Black Legion puzzled officials of two counties yesterday.

The 21-year-old tenant farmer was held in voluntary custody while Sheriff E. D. Shepherd investigated his account.

Spellman said he was whisked away from his Carroll County home at midnight Sunday by three men—two of them masked. He was driven 30 miles into Whiteside County, he

added, and forced to remove his trousers. He said he was gagged with a handkerchief, his arms were tied behind him with a belt, the pants were looped under his arm pits and he was suspended from the tree.

He seemed near collapse when Otto von Holton, a farmer, found him yesterday morning.

During the period Spellman covered in his story, his home was destroyed by flames.

Sheriff Shepherd said parts of the recital "didn't jibe." Both Shepherd and Sheriff A. E. Hamilton of Whiteside County asserted the belief the Black Legion had no connection with the affair.

Spellman contended he knew of no motive for an attack.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

*[Handwritten signature/initials across the bottom of the routing slip]*

WASH. STAR

JUN 3 1936

167-7392-4

# ARMY OFFICERS HELD ACTIVE IN 'BLACK LEGION'

**Cult Plotted Armed Revolt,  
Dickstein Charges in  
Demand for Congress Probe**

Charging that officers of the Michigan National Guard and of the U. S. Army Reserves are members of the "Black Legion" and have been plotting an armed uprising, Representative Dickstein (D.), of New York, yesterday demanded a congressional investigation.

Over 6,000,000 men belong to the terrorist organization, Dickstein told the House. It was spread from Michigan into 11 States, he declared as he flayed subversive activities.

## **Reveals No Names**

Dickstein declined to reveal the names of the Army officers who he said not only have joined the Black Legion but used Army horses to train the hooded legionnaires in night riding forays.

Chairman of the House Immigration Committee, Dickstein pleaded for immediate enactment of his resolution which would appropriate \$100,000 for a House investigation of the Black Legion, which, he said, is "sworn to bloodshed."

Collapse of Michigan police machinery in wiping out the "menace" was cited by the New Yorker as a reason for the investigation and possible enactment of new laws which would broaden existing authority... the Department of Justice in crushing subversive movements.

## **Long Known to Police**

Representative Sadowski (D.), of Michigan, arguing for immediate consideration of the Dickstein resolution, told the House Michigan police were aware of the existence of the Black Legion as early as last year. He declared:

"The Department of Justice already has been approached on this matter. The Attorney General as expressed his views and does not see how the department can enter the case. He says nothing has been presented which would show a Federal offense of an interstate nature.

"Nevertheless, let us remember that the State Police of Michigan were aware of this condition last August when they arrested some of these men with guns, but nothing was done. The Governor of the State of Michigan has known about it. It does not look as if the State Police and the Governor of our State are going to do much of anything about the matter.

## **Linked to G. O. P.**

"The reason the State of Michigan has not taken any part in this prosecution is because these men have been affiliated with the Wolverine

Republican Club and other Republican organizations. They (the Black Legion) have worked closely with the Republican party in about four large counties in Michigan and have been the backbone of the Republican party in these four counties," Dickstein declared.

"What can the Department of Justice do? Make an investigation and then what? There is not a bit of law upon which they can prosecute and destroy this menace.

"I warn this Congress that now is the time we put the searchlight upon every organization in this country that is taking the law into its hands and destroying the background of this republic.

## **Cavalry Horses Used**

"It is very serious when you find men in the Reserve Corps of the United States Army, men in the State Militia of Michigan, a part of this group.

"When you find they take cavalry horses from the Army to use in their night riding, I say it is serious."

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. [unclear]  
Mr. [unclear]  
Chief Clerk  
Clegg  
Coffey  
Edwards  
Egan  
Gurnea  
Harbo  
Joseph  
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Trotter  
Gandy

WASH. HERALD

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-7

# Black Legion Activities Probed by Prosecutor

## 'Republican Club' Formed by Night Riders, Is New Charge

Staff Writer Davis' Black Legion inquiry carries him to Jackson, Mich., a recent hub of the pseudo-Fascist brotherhood.

By FORREST DAVIS

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

JACKSON, Mich.—The birthplace of the Republican Party in 1854 as a mildly radical political instrument, today witnesses the stern, public disrobing of a ragtag band of emerging Fascists who were out, among other objectives, to capture the Republican machine in Jackson County.

Jackson's case against the Black Legion—accused here of causing the death of one, possibly two men; of four floggings and three house burnings in the course of their bid for power—is furthest advanced of any county in Michigan.

Owen Dudley, Republican, a vigorous young prosecutor, deserves credit for Jackson's promptitude. While Detroit and other infested communities vented their amazement in talk, Dudley acted. He set up a one-man grand jury which is now in the thick of unfrocking the night riders.

### TO GRILL PRISON GUARD

"Brig-Gen." Ray Ernest, suspended guard in the Jackson State Prison, fumes resentfully in the county jail. He is to be questioned tomorrow. In Ernest's home, police found a sub-machine gun, rifles, ammunition, robes and masks.

Ernest founded and headed the Citizens Republican Club, with which he hoped to capture the county Republican organization.

Today, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, Baptist minister at near-by Rives Junction, regaled Justice of the Peace Ernest J. Rogers, the one-man jury, with his defiance of the Black Legion.

A two-fisted World War veteran and country preacher, Montague dared threats of Black Legionnaires at a midnight, pasture lot meeting last week—invited to join, he went with friends to an initiation.

### BALKS AT OATH

The anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, anti-Negro biography of the speeches and the bloodcurdling medieval tone of the oath affronted him. He refused to take the oath, attempting to reason with the committee instead. Guns were drawn.

"You're wrong," he told the Black Knights. "I'm a man of God and willing to die." A detail of knights hustled him out of the meeting.

"Brig-Gen." Ernest, his brothers, Glenn and Ernest, and Allen Basom are to be interrogated tomorrow about the beating of Harley W. Smith of the village of Norvell.

"The General" in a torn shirt, clutching the cell bars, exhibited resentment over the Smith and Montague charges.

### WANTS TO MEET SMITH

"All I want to do is meet Smith face to face," he said. As for the clergyman, "If he says he was beaten, he is no man of God."

Napoleon is a village of 500 souls in Jackson County. Until the Charles Poole lynching outside Detroit disclosed the Black Legion's true nature, the terrorists boasted that all but seven adults, white Protestant males in Napoleon had taken the bullet oath—a gun pressed at their hearts.

The Hawley brothers, Erwin and Virgil, run a filling station at Napoleon. They already have testified in the flogging of Smith. Their father, Dite, a suspended lieutenant of guards in the State Prison, was "lieutenant-colonel" of the Black Legion.

Eight of the 380 prison guards have been suspended as a result of Black Legion disclosures.

### CLAIMS HUSBAND BEATEN

Ten grand jury subpoenas are yet to be served. A witness, Dudley revealed today, will testify that her husband was badly beaten when he tried to quit the Black Legion. He is guarding her identity.

A visitor to this tree-shaded Michigan industrial city of 60,000—the usual midwestern overgrown county seat, with smooth streets, a luxury hotel, handsome movie theaters, modern schools and tall church spires—finds it difficult to believe that under the day-by-day surface of

life here existed a secret movement bound to any crime, not except murder, by its ritual.

But in the courthouse, the grand jury inquires into the Smith flogging, the death of Paul Every soon after he was beaten last year and a number of other deaths.

"We are looking into the case of a man found by the roadside," Owen Dudley said. "His skull was fractured and it was dismissed as a hit-and-run automobile fatality. But new evidence has come to light which dictates he, too, may have been a Black Legion victim."

### FRIGHTENED INTO FLEEING

Every's widow and son, the prosecutor said, were frightened out of Jackson and now live somewhere on Long Island, N. Y.

"The General" profanely indignant over news that the criminal syndicalist act was to be invoked against him, disclosed the nature of his campaign to take over the Republican Party.

"I invited 13 citizens from all parts of the county and we formed an executive committee," he said.

He told them the only way to get private jobs was to get in to office. We were circulating petitions for candidates to the county convention when nothing happened." He condemned the Black Legionnaires, on trial for the Poole murder, unsparingly.

He likewise professed his eager desire to "die for the Red, White and Blue, on any of all occasions."

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....

WASH. NEWS

JUN 3 1936

## One Man's Opinion by Hugh S. Johnson

Johnson says swift attack on Black Legion is proof 'it can't happen here'; calls Townsend and Coughlin blocs more dangerous.



TULSA, Okla.—Sinclair Lewis wrote a book called "It Can't Happen Here." The book showed how a Fascist movement on the Hitler plan could happen here. Then his wife, Dorothy Thompson, in her admirable column "On the Record," writes a piece called "It Can Happen Here," and uses for her text the revelations and rumors about the Black Legion.

With deference for the fine analytical thinking of both wedded gentl, as a national menace to be dignified by attention so distinguished, the Black Legion is the bunk. It is a dirty rat's nest that should and will be stamped out. But to go from that to a conclusion that it is a fore-runner to some American Hitler is too big a jump.

The Black Legion is no manifestation of a considerable American fascism or any other philosophy. It is a distorted outcropping on the lower ledges of the ingrained American jining-and-peacock complex. You can read about it in embryo in "Huckleberry Finn" and Tom Sawyer's boy robber bands. You can see it in its brighter form in the plumes, sashes, swords, dolmens, regalia, passwords and ritual of every "fraternal and benevolent" secret order—hundreds of them everywhere. Its basis is a bucolic yearning toward romance and away from the hum-drum, plus an excuse to be out with the boys.

Where some moron or worse per-

verts this tendency of belated adolescence to such sinister purposes as race and religious hatred and political action, it is time to take it apart and hang somebody. But the mere fact that this is going to be promptly and thoroughly and effectively done is proof enough that "it can't happen here."

A far more dangerous regimentation of simplicity and prejudice than these murder juntas is the Townsend and Coughlin type of emotional bloc, deluded by eloquence or sophistry into crusading zeal for wholly destructive purposes of impossible idealism. You can hang a man for successful conspiracy to murder your neighbors because they are Negroes, Catholics or Jews, but you can't hang him for an impossible plan to keep your grandparents out of the poorhouse—not even if it does threaten to upset the country.

(Copyright, 1936)

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
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Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tenny  
Miss Gandy

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

JUN 3 1936

6-1058P



# 'WHITE LEGION' COAST ROW PROBED

William Haines, Film  
Star, and Friends  
Beaten by Gang

HOLLYWOOD, June 3 (I.N.S.). Sweeping investigation into activities of a "White Legion," members of which severely beat William Haines, former film star, and a group of his friends and drove them from a beach city near here, was launched today by city and county officials.

Deputy sheriffs reported they had questioned a score of residents of East Manhattan Beach, all of whom admitted membership in the legion and talked freely of driving Haines and his friends from their community.

No action will be taken, however, until further investigation, the officers said.

## Haines Blames Drunks

The beating, which was revealed yesterday, took place last weekend. Haines and Jimmy Shields, film extra, were struck down by an infuriated mob, and they and 14 other summer residents were pelted with tomatoes as they were driven out of town. Haines said today:

"It was the work of drunks, spurred on by malicious gossip."

Haines said he was at a loss to understand how the people could have become so worked up, but readily admitted the beating and added he had left the beach town for good.

Deputy sheriffs revealed that some members of the "White Legion" had come to them seeking a morals complaint against an unnamed member of the group, which rented beach houses from Haines. The officers said they refused to ~~have~~ a complaint because there was no evidence.

## Stays Down When Hit

The actual violence occurred outside a restaurant Saturday night, according to Haines and Shields, both of whom still are suffering black eyes and swollen faces. Haines said:

"When they came up and told us to get out, I was surprised and started to question them. Then they knocked Jimmy down, and when I started to help him up, they knocked me down. I realized the men were intoxicated, and that to fight with them might result in fatalities, so I stayed in a prone position."

The men and some women who were in the mob ordered Haines and Shields and their friends to get out of town in an hour, the former actor said.

After they went home and packed up and were driving through the town their car was pelted with tomatoes.

Mr. Nathan ...  
Mr. Tolson ...  
Mr. Baughman ...  
Chief Clerk ...  
Mr. Clegg ...  
Mr. Coffey ...  
Mr. Edwards ...  
Mr. Egan ...  
Mr. Foxworth ...  
Mr. Harbo ...  
Mr. Joseph ...  
Mr. Keith ...  
Mr. Lester ...  
Mr. Quinn ...  
Mr. R. Quinn ...  
Mr. Tracy ...  
Miss Gandy ...

WASH. TIMES

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-4

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Universal Service Wire  
WASHINGTON, June 3.—The Department of Justice today was asked to investigate possible connection between the Black Legion and operations of company spies in automobile plants in the Detroit area.

Attorney General Cummings, to whose attention the matter was brought by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, told him that no showing of a federal question being involved had been made and for that reason the department could not take it up.

Green called on the attorney general to lay before him a letter of complaint he had received from Homer Martin, president of the Automobile Workers' Union affiliated with the A. F. of L. Martin wrote his organization had evidence to show that the Black Legion was responsible for the death of one member of his union at Hudson Motors.

Also, he said, the union had evidence of some relation between the Black Legion and an organization known as the "Dawn Patrol," with objectives similar to the legion. He furthermore wrote the union had collected evidence of close working relations between the legion and company spies, special police and other undercover agents of the motor manufacturers.

Mr. Malbone .....	.....
Mr. Tolson .....	.....
Mr. Boardman .....	.....
Chief Clerk .....	.....
Mr. Glavin .....	.....
Mr. Coffey .....	.....
Mr. Edwards .....	.....
Mr. Egan .....	.....
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Mr. Lester .....	.....
Mr. Quinn .....	.....
Mr. Schilder .....	.....
Mr. Tamm .....	.....
Miss Gandy .....	.....

Enron

61-7398-A



**THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE  
G-MEN**

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES lost no time in calling for federal assistance when they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But the department of justice still recognizes the fact that national law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney General Cummings simply stated that the G-men could not step in unless there were clear indications that federal law had been flouted. Upon the state enforcement machinery the major portion of the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious political organization. For that reason local elective officials naturally wonder how many votes they will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It would be convenient for them to accept federal aid and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.

PLEASE RETURN TO  
DIVISION OF  
PRESS INTELLIGENCE  
2067 Commerce Bldg.

NO.

SYMBOL

PAPER *Chicago Tribune*

CITY *Chicago*

DATE *JUN 12 1936*

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Baughman ✓  
Chief Clerk ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Edwards ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Foxworth ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Joseph ✓  
Mr. Keith ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Schilder ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

*Enrill*

61-7398-A

U. S. JOSEPH  
15

# FARM YOUTH TORTURED BY NIGHT RIDERS

STERLING, Ill., June 1.—Au-  
thorities tonight sought to con-  
nect the Black Legion with mask-  
ed night riders who early today  
kidnaped a young tenant farmer  
near Chadwick, bound him to a  
tree limb with his pants, and  
burned his home.

The victim, Rees Spellman, 21,  
was alone when called to his  
door. He was roughly thrown  
into a car, and driven thirty  
miles. His upper garments were  
fastened about his body, and the  
pants tied to a tree, leaving him  
cangling in mid-air.

Hours later he was found and  
released, suffering from exposure.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

67-1599 A

2-2-36

## Find Kidnaped Illinois Farm Tenant Tied; Home Destroyed

Sterling, Ill., June 1.—[Special].—Authorities of two counties were puzzled tonight over the kidnaping and "pants hanging" a young tenant farmer of near Chadwick and the burning of his home during his absence.

Tonight Spellman was in voluntary custody of Sheriff E. D. Shepherd who was investigating his story. The sheriff said certain parts of the strange tale did not jibe. The sheriff said that while reputed methods of the kidnapers were the same as employed by the Black Legion, he doubted that there was any connection.

The victim, Rees Spellman, 21, was alone in his home last midnight when he heard a knock at the door. His young wife had been staying at her mother's since the birth of her baby two weeks ago. Spellman admitted a stranger who asked for road directions.

### Masked Men Outside.

Suddenly the man produced a revolver and ordered the farmer to accompany him. Outside two masked men stood beside Spellman's car. They forced him to get in and drive through Sterling and Rock Falls to a point in Whiteside county, about thirty miles from his Carroll county home.

There he was ordered out of the car and his pants removed. Using the garment as a sling, the men fastened the upper part around his body under his arms and tied the legs to a tree limb. His feet bound with his belt, swung several inches

off the ground. His red handkerchief was poked into his mouth as a gag, and his hands were tied behind his back. Then the men drove away.

Otto Von Holton, Whiteside county farmer, passed near the place this morning and heard Spellman's cries. He unfastened the pants and let the exhausted victim down. Spellman collapsed from shock and exposure, but was revived a short time later.

### Thought Victim of Fire.

An hour or so after the farmer was kidnaped his house burned to the ground. Neighbors, who arrived on the scene after the building was enveloped in flames, believed Spellman had died in the fire. They searched the ruins for his body before learning that he had spent the night tied to a tree.

Spellman said he could advance no motive for the act. He said the men hardly said a word to him and offered no hint as to their reason for kidnaping him. Authorities working on the case also declared they were unable to offer a theory for the attack other than that it was done by a secret band of self-appointed vigilantes.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

69-7397-A

~~7-2-36~~

6-2-36



So the Scotch'd snake isn't dead yet?  
Though its head is smashed and flattened  
By the heavy stone hurled on it,  
Still the rattler's tail is writhing

In the manner of all reptiles.  
There remains life in the menace,  
And it must not be permitted  
To revive and spread new terror.

WASH. TIMES

JUN 1 1935

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## EDITORIAL

The more enlightened citizens of Michigan have demanded that congress pass legislation authorizing the G-Men to go into their state and "liquidate" the infamous Black Legion. Once again, it would appear, the local authorities are incompetent to meet a menacing situation, just as they were powerless before the onslaught of the kidnaping racket. Federal assistance, of the effective variety supplied by the federal bureau of investigation in bringing kidnapers to terms, therefore presents itself as the logical remedy. Certainly the Black Legion and similar terrorist organizations must be exterminated if American government is to survive.

But one difficulty arises in the plan to resort to the simple device of calling in the G-Men to break up a band of masked murders. Where is this process of letting the local authorities "pass the buck" to the federal bureau of investigation going to stop? High-priced police forces are maintained by all cities and most of the counties and states. Certainly they should be able to do something besides

handed out tickets for illegal parking or locking up the town drunk. But if this becomes the limit of their activities and all the more urgent jobs are handed over to the G-Men the federal bureau of investigation will soon demand that it be multiplied in size to perform the extra duties which seem to be its lot. Meanwhile it is too much to expect that the surplus of local police will be curtailed and the result will find the nation's police bill doubling over night.

Furthermore, what about state's rights? Hardly a day passes but what a politician of low or high degree majestically exclaims that the federal government should keep its hands off the business of the states, implying that the 48 divisions of our government are able to take care of themselves. Yet it would seem that whenever a taxing job arises the states run to Washington for assistance. State's rights is a two-way theory. It implies that the states be given freedom from federal interference and that they demonstrate their ability to take care of their own business in a creditable manner.

Especially when it reaches the proportions of the Black Legion, crime is too important a problem to be fettered with lengthy debates on state's rights and other political issues. But consistency demands that if the states refuse to permit the federal government to close up speakeasies within their borders or abolish business racketeering, they dispose of not only these problems but also such imposing menaces as kidnapping and mob murder. The state's right principle is being scrapped, we fear, not by the aggressiveness of the federal government, but by the impotence of the states effectively to exercise their constitutional rights and the responsibility that goes with them.

825 Broad St. Nat'l Bank Building  
Trenton, N. J.

61-7390

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# Today

(R.E. U. S. Tel. Off.)  
**The Veterans That Remain.  
 Politicians Will Tell You.  
 The Palestine Troubles.  
 10,000 Tons of Cotton.**

**By Arthur Brisbane**

No one knows quite how that "Black Legion" really is. Some say 30,000 wear the skin and cross bones, privately, some say 6,000,000. You will get more exact information from the politicians. If they begin skirting cautiously around the Black Legion question, showing "reluctance to prejudge a body of their fellow citizens, etc." you will know that it is a BIG legion, with many voters, and that politicians are afraid of it. You remember how a Democratic national convention dodged all direct reference to the Ku Klux Klan through fear of hostile votes.

Universal Service, after investigation, says the legion members take a "blood oath" to kill their own relatives, if need be, to carry out their commander's orders "in the name of God and the devil." Universal Service suggests that the legion is tied up and works in harmony, with one eminently respectable national organization, but does not say which one it is.

Mr. Folsom	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-7398-A

WASH. TIMES

# A Legion of Death—C

## *Masked Fanatics Ask End of All the 'Isms'*

**Communists and Fascists Are Marked to Die;  
Their Wrath Is Also Said to Extend to  
Catholics and to the Jews.**

By Liam Lenihan.

Strange costumes out of the twilight of civilization, dark, giant-like silhouettes cast against the black background of the watching night, masks and banners and esoteric ritual, clandestine gatherings and furtive speech . . . Then wild rumor of swift retribution and with it fear—the fear of the enemy unknown, the dread of fear itself . . .

Such is the aureole of the Black Legion and behind it arise the grim ghosts of the past . . . shadows that lurked in the gloom since the dawn of Time to bring terror in their wake, phantoms that ever haunted the counter-eddy of the human mind. Primitive society heard the challenge from the gray mists of the valley, modern civilization caught the echo in the backwash of Main street.

### **Members Drawn From Small Town.**

Most secret masked organizations are essentially a regression, a definite throw-back to the mentality of the savage. Membership is drawn mainly from the small town, for it is in the small town that we sometimes find the narrow outlook, the mediocrity, the small minds that are stifled by the deadly boredom of routine. And in that atmosphere of vacuity and drabness man finds stimulation in secret fellowship, in disguise. For the disguise of the Black Legion and the white hood of its mother strumpet, the Klan, renders man less an individual, more a heroic member of a uniform group, less a person, more a half-god. And disguise, too, is the expression of the paranoiac trend that is in each of us. For in masks we find courage to bolster our fears and in numbers

enrolled, impervious to reason, dreaming of sway.

It was the death-knell of civilization in the South and so blindly, malevolently the white landowners struck back.

### **Order First Formed For Amusement.**

Two years prior to this period of mob marching and unrest six young men who had seen service in the War of the States, organized, for diversion and amusement, the first "den" of the Ku Klux Klan in the little town of Pulaski, Tenn. The original name of their club was Ku Kloi, from the Greek word "Ku Klos," meaning band or circle. It was then changed to Ku Klux and Klan was later added. And since masquerading was very much in vogue the young men arrayed themselves in pillow-cases and stiff linen sheets. To deepen the mystery they robbed their horses and muffled their hoofs and when black night fell they rode forth to startle the superstitious freedmen, who thought they were fearful portents of disaster from the nearby battlefield of Shiloh.

At first the "whites" laughed over the discomfiture of the Negroes, then noticing a change for the better in their conduct, they saw in the organization a panacea for high-handed tyranny. Thus preterted, the society spread like wildfire from Virginia to Texas and the first meeting of delegates from all dens was held in Nashville, amid acclaim.

### **Tornado of Terror Sweeps South.**

Designating the Southern terrorism as "The Invisible Empire," the convention subdivided it into "realms" and "clans" and divided into

# America a Blood Purge

## Dread Society Claims Enormous Membership

Its Members, Scattered Throughout the States,  
Owe Allegiance to a Mysterious Leader, by  
Reason of Fearful Oaths.

that the suspects were members of an organization, calling itself the Black Legion, that Poole's death was a ritual murder, that the order had political implications, with a U. S. dictatorship its avowed goal, and that its tentacles spread far and wide with a possible membership of 7,000,000.

### Far-Flung Activities Revealed.

Aghast, authorities instituted a Statewide manhunt throughout Michigan, and their quest swept on into other murders. Prosecutor Duncan McCrea found new evidences of its far-flung activities. Consulting his captives—some defiant, some babblingly hysterical—he looked over the coroner's reports for mysterious deaths and suicides of the last several months—and presently announced that new evidence had come to light in the sudden demise of 50 men who, he claims, had died merely because the Black gang did not will them to live.

Detroit was in a state of frenzied apprehension. There were ugly rumors that the city hall was involved... the police force... State officials. What are these people like, the citizenry asked, without the glamour of their death masks? Are one's relatives and friends on the list of men who signed their names in blood?

There were repercussions throughout the country, too. Somewhere in Ohio or northwestern Virginia lurks the Supreme One of the clan, whose name must never be mentioned except in awed and fearful whispers. Dubbed Shepherd, the Mysterious, police, making rough calculations, figured that dues from his robed and armed cohorts would give him the modest income of \$700,000 a month.

### Leaders Dragged Out

spiritual if not the actual heir of the dreaded Ku Klux Klan. Composed in equal parts of the slow witted and the malicious, its leaders were given fancy titles and a sizable cut on profits. Each recruit who wished to sit in judgment on his neighbor paid \$7 for the privilege. In return he received a black robe, embroidered with skull and crossbones, was admitted as a private with full permission to denounce all and sundry whom he envied or disliked.

Now Uncle Sam may take a hand. Following the revelation that the legion had laid plans to kidnap the daughter of the Governor of Ohio, Department of Justice sleuths were called on to stamp out the murderous night-riders. Prosecutor McCrea, in wiring Attorney General Cummings, said he thought the racket could be wiped out if the Federal Government would invoke the Lindbergh law, its big weapon against kidnapers.

The Nation hopes such action will be taken. Poole died because he talked too much. Perhaps his death is not in vain.

### Furtive Figures in The Night.

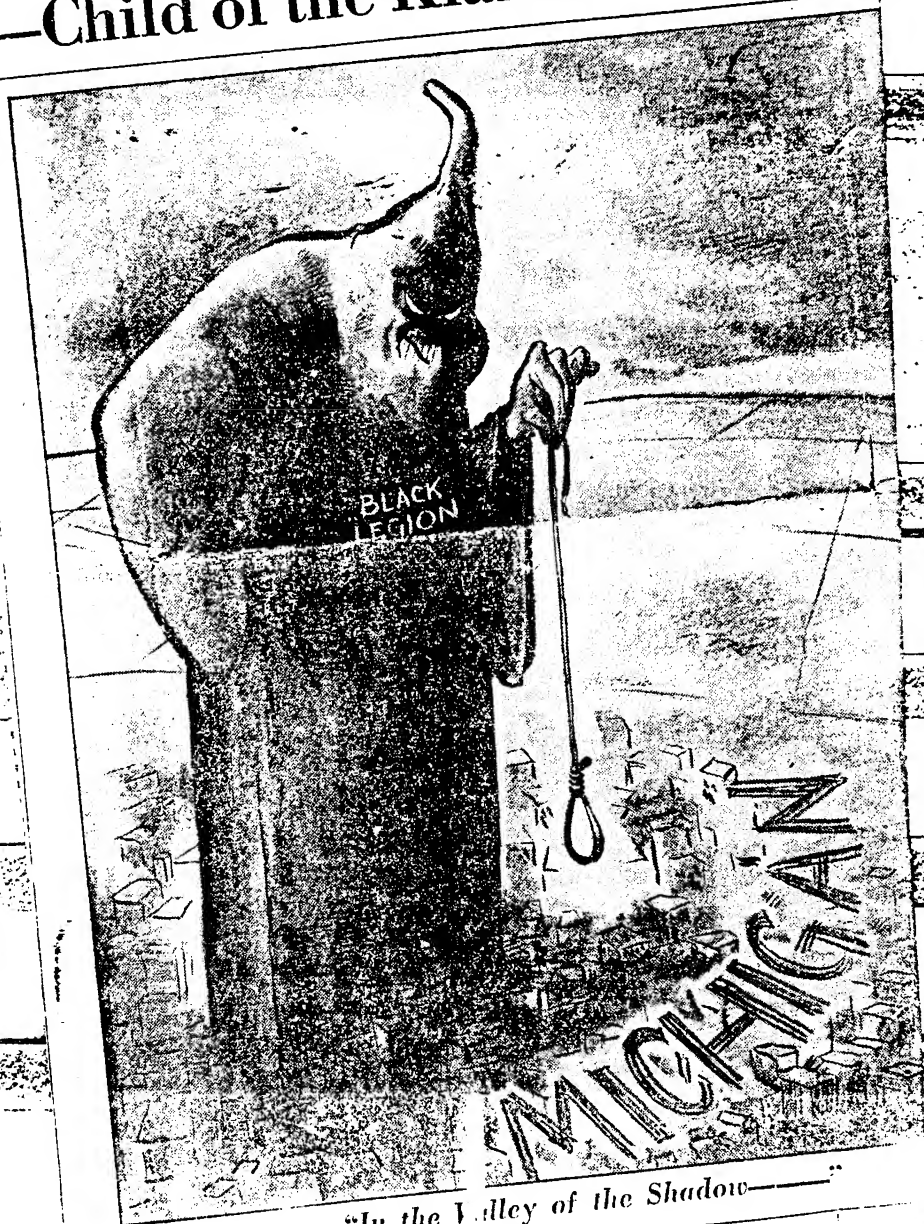
Tremblingly the neophyte listens. All around him furtive figures assume grotesque proportions against the inky blackness of the night. The wind whistles mournfully through the trees and dies with a weird lilting death rattle in the gloomy depths of the wood. Beads of perspiration gather on his forehead... strained, his ears catch a voice as it drones the oath of initiation and he hears his own repeat:

"In the name of God and the devil, one to reward and the other to punish, and by the powers of light and darkness, good and evil here under the black arch of Heaven's avenging symbol, I pledge and consecrate my heart, my brain,



THE WASHINGTON POST: SUNDAY.

# —Child of the Klan—Offers Ar



"In the Valley of the Shadow—"

PHILADELPHIA EVENING BULLETIN  
5-30-36

BLACK LEGION TERROR

If the Black Legion has done half the things in Michigan which are charged against it, the Michigan criminal code, State and local, must be competent, if enforced, to bring to book the perpetrators of such outrages. The prosecutor of Wayne County, who says that he knows of various instances where the members of this organization have violated Federal law, including the LINDBERGH kidnaping law, ought not to be wasting time seeking evidence that will induce Federal Attorney General Cummings to take a hand and order out Chief Hoover's public enemy hunters. He would operate more directly to the point, and with less difficulty, if he started the State law-enforcing powers at work.

There may be an interstate conspiracy, committing offense within Federal jurisdiction and warranting Federal jurisdiction. But it is a safe assumption that the major offenses have been committed within State jurisdiction, challenging the status of State authority. Appeals for Federal action may betoken supreme confidence in the efficiency of the Federal police. But by the same token they betoken confidence in State law enforcement, whether it be in fear of actual incompetence, or of unwillingness to test the political issues involved. In other words the appeal for Federal intervention looks very much like passing a hot buck.

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Baughman ✓  
Chief Clerk ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Edwards ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Fox ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Gurnea ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Hendon ✓  
Mr. Jones ✓  
Mr. Keith ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

## No Amateurs Wanted.

Aside from their frequent carriage of justice, the hopeless incursion of untrained men who band together to supplement the law's efforts is well demonstrated in the news from Louisiana. Possemen, in beating through the wilderness to find an escaped convict, have shot three of their own number. Two of the searchers fired blindly at vague movements in the brush in accordance with their orders to "shoot to kill."

The order, in the first place, was rashly given. Not even police officers trailing the most dangerous maniac receive such unqualified instructions. Plainly, hysteria was ruling the sheriffs who organized the posse. Add to this the nervousness of volunteers unaccustomed to the business of man-hunting and the mistaken shots are quite understandable. But they may not be so simply excused—in fact, they never can be condoned.

Particularly in this country, where the vigilante tradition of frontier days still lingers, impulsive cries for revenge must be continually guarded against. At best, they open the way for such blunders as Louisiana reports; at worst, they result in "Black Legions" of the sort Michigan is now belatedly scotching.

Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-7398-A

MAY 30 1936

16



Capital punishment, gloomy and grim, extends to the Black Legion an invitation that some of its members will accept, whether they want to or not.

That Black Legion, based on secrecy, cowardice, cruelty, race and religious hatred and **murder**, has been energetic in enrolling new members. Its rules for membership have been worthy of the skull and crossbones with which it decorates its regalia. A member must be "native born, Protestant, white, Gentile." Above all, the "native born, Protestant, white Gentile" must be **ready to commit MURDER if ordered.**

Here is another "club" formed by men to protect themselves from Black Legions, white Ku Klux and similar murder organizations: The Death Penalty, executed by **JUSTICE.**

Terms of admission to that club, as Black Legionnaires will discover, are simple: There are no oaths, no dues. It does not matter whether you are native born, white, Protestant, Gentile, Catholic, Jew or Negro. And the initiation is very simple.

You sit down in a chair, while somebody presses a button, or you stand with hands and ankles bound, while someone puts a rope around your neck, and a few seconds later you are a full fledged member. The Black Legion would do well to remember this.

MAY 30 1936

WS-BEE EDITORIAL PAGE, MAY 30, 1936

# Moronic Criminality

5-13-1936



The "Toledo News-Press"

Toledo Ohio

5-30-36

61-7399-A

## NEWSPAPER GUILD AFFILIATION ASKED

### Board's Report Recommends

A. F. L. Move and Urges  
Black Legion Probe.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 30.—The Executive Board of the American Newspaper Guild recommended in its annual report yesterday that the guild make application to the American Federation of Labor for a charter signifying affiliation with the federation.

Edward Levinson, chairman of the Labor Relations Committee, told the 200 delegates attending the guild convention that a majority and a minority report on affiliation would be presented today.

The delegates unanimously adopted a resolution urging Senate investigation of the Black Legion, and telegraphed President Roosevelt saying the guild unanimously registers its whole-hearted support of Senate resolution 266, providing for a thorough investigation of rights of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to bargain collectively. "Current disclosures concerning the Black Legion activities emphasize the grave danger to American liberties and the vital need of a searching inquiry into the denial of civil rights and the violation of democratic traditions," said the telegram.

The guild also discussed the case of Morris Watson, vice president of the Guild for Press Associations and former employe of the Associated Press, who charged in a complaint to the National Labor Relations Board he was discharged for guild activities.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-7395 A  
WASH. STAR

MAY 30 1936

It Seems to Me  
By Heywood

## BROWN

No danger when hoods lift.  
Now it has happened here.  
Things silly and sinister.  
Probe of Fascism needed.

NO HOODED GROUP in America has done very much damage once it was dragged out into the open. But there is sometimes a reluctance to tackle such an organization openly. The advent of the national conventions reminds me of the strange atmosphere that prevailed in Madison Square Garden when the Democrats met in 1924. The Klan was sweeping the country, but both politicians and publicists, with a few conspicuous newspaper exceptions, simply refused to talk about it.

The Republican Party was prepared to let well enough alone, and so were most of the Democrats. Even the foes of the organization were inclined to talk about "intolerance" and "bigotry" and name no names. Indeed, the spokesmen of the Klan had no objection whatsoever to sweeping declarations concerning "freedom" so long as no finger was pointed directly at the organization which they served.

But at last there stood up in the Garden a man from Maine named Fattangall. He began as the rest had done, talking in generalities, but then he raised his voice and said, "And when I talk of bigotry I refer specifically to that organization known as the Ku Klux Klan."

The rafters of the building almost came down. It was like the breaking of a storm which has been growing around over the edge of the horizon. The fight was on, but at least you could breathe the air. After a night session which marked the high spot in drama of all political conventions of our time the Democrats decided to straddle and omit any mention of the Klan. And yet the fight against the terror was really won in that convention by Fattangall's speech.



Brown

I TAKE with many grains of salt the assertion that the Black Legion numbers 6,000,000 members, and yet the problem which it presents deserves the most serious consideration and investigation. I believe there is a move in Congress to inquire as to possible "foreign" sources of infection. Personally, I doubt the existence of any Nazi tieup, although it is worth considering. But far more important would be an examination of the sources nearer home. The fact that large financial interests in this country were willing to finance Talmadge and his racialist program shows that there is hardly any point at which the confederate in the Fascist threat. Sinclair Lewis may not be the great American novelist, but he certainly qualifies as the great American prophet.

I for one owe him an apology. Certain phases of "It Can't Happen Here" seemed to me to run into the field of burlesque. They didn't. The things he imagined have actually occurred. Indeed, when I look at a photograph of the Black Shirt leader I was inclined to say, "You're not real; you're a character in a story. Sinclair Lewis invented you."

RECENT developments have convinced me that there ought to be a campaign against the American sense of humor and an effort to found a festival to be known as Get-Rid-of-That-Silly-Grin week. We are disposed to forget that things can be both silly and sinister. Knaves and dupes and fanatics cannot be laughed off the earth.

An editorial commentator has remarked that the Black Shirt oath reads like something taken out of "Huckleberry Finn." That is true enough, but, even so, it cannot be taken lightly. Who could have seemed more silly than Hitler before he came into power? Indeed, who could seem more silly than Hitler today? And yet, he is no laughing matter.

We will have to ferret out Fascism even when it wears the guise of farce. America may have its own particular paperhanger who is a potential threat. Indeed, the men I fear in this country are those who are paper-hung. I refer to the group of political eligibles who prance into the arena wearing a garland of Hearst editorials.

WASH. NEWS

MAY 20 1936

61-7398-A

# U. S. SET TO MOVE ON BLACK LEGION

## But Evidence of Violation of Federal Law Needed, Cummings Writes.

By the Associated Press.

The Federal Government is ready. It was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion the moment it receives definite evidence that Federal laws have been violated.

If black legionnaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across State lines, officials explained, the "G men" will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Federal Government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury, the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated the Government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the Federal statute actually has been violated. He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McRea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

Cummings wired:

"As, of course, you are aware, the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes.

"If you have information that a Federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice at Washington."

There was no information today as to how soon Congress would come to a vote on a resolution, offered by Senator Benson, Farmer-Laborite, of Minnesota for a joint House and Senate investigation into "such terroristic organizations as the Black Legion" and other groups alleged to be "subversive."

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
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Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
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# Cummings Bars Hooded Legion Inquiry by U.S.

Sen. Benson Asks Congress to Act; Intimidation in Ohio Charged.

By the United Press.

The Department of Justice yesterday declined temporarily to join the investigation of Black Legion terroristic activities because there was insufficient evidence that Federal laws had been violated.

Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecuting attorney, had appealed for aid from the Federal agents after his investigation of the slaying of a WPA worker by the night-riding band because he "knew too much" uncovered evidence indicating the terrorists were operating in more than 15 States.

Attorney General Homer S. Cummings replied that more information concerning possible Federal law violations would be necessary before the Justice Department agents could enter the case, but left the way open for throwing Federal men into the investigation by inviting McCrea to submit such information.

"As of course you are aware," Cummings telegraphed McCrea, "the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice."

## Congress Inquiry Nearer.

Meanwhile, efforts for Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and other "un-American" secret orders gained impetus on Capitol Hill.

A thorough inquiry into all such "subversive" organizations by a joint Congressional committee was proposed in resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Elmer Benson (Farmer-Labor, Minnesota). A similar resolution was offered in the House Wednesday by Representative Samuel Dickstein (Republican, New York).

Benson urged Congress to act promptly before "we awake to the day when our cherished American liberty will be a thing of the past." His proposal called for appointment of four Senators and four Representatives with full power to make a thorough investigation of secret orders seeking to establish dictatorship or rule by force and terror in the United States.

## New Appeal to U. S.

Detroit, May 20.—New appeals to the Federal Government to throw its power into the fight to uproot the Black Legion, secret society of night-riding terrorists, were before a half dozen governmental agencies tonight.

Resolutions demanding Congressional investigations awaited action in both the House and Senate in Washington, where the Michigan Democratic Congressional committee was drafting legislation to empower J. Edgar Hoover's Department of Justice operatives to strike at the black-robed order.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least 15 States, by proposing that the Internal Revenue Department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (Ohio) contractor, who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

## Cites Collections.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as selling them the death's head robes and other regalia they are charged with wearing on the midnight fogging parties of which they are accused in several States.

Postoffice inspectors were reported at work in Jackson, Mich., where five men are charged with beating a reluctant member with the heavy, three-pronged whips such as have been seized in several recent raids, checking reports that mail carriers there belonged to the order. One mail carrier is under suspension.

Still another Federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell (Democrat), of Michigan, who said he would ask that a Federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole, May 13, led to the fast moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

## Officers' Names Listed.

"We have no idea how many roads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piel. "The names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways, and eight employees have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio Senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston, officials said State detectives and Federal postal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bombs sent recently to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.

## Echo in Kentucky.

Still other echoes of terrorism were heard in Saylorsville, Ky., where a number of foggings of both men and women were attributed by authorities to a secret society known as the "Black Legs." It was not known whether the group there was affiliated with the Black Legion.

Possible use of the Michigan criminal syndicalism statute as a weapon against the Black Legion was studied today by Prosecutor Owen Dudley, of Jackson County, who said the law prohibits any "advocacy of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political reforms."

MAY 29 1936

# G-MEN MAKING UNDERCOVER PROBE OF CULT

But Cummings Says U. S. Is  
Powerless Unless Federal  
Laws Have Been Violated

WASHINGTON, May 23 (US).—Attorney General Cummings tonight withheld formal Federal action against the Black Legion, saying the Government is powerless to take punitive measures unless the hooded band is found to have violated national laws.

Nevertheless, it was learned reliably in Detroit that G-men are deep in an undercover investigation of Legionnaires' activities throughout the Middle West to determine if Federal laws have been violated.

## 'Authority Limited'

In Cummings' reply to a telegraphing appeal from State's Attorney McCrea of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked the Attorney-General to place a squad of G-men at his disposal, he said:

"The authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest you submit it to the Department of Justice at Washington."

Announcement by Cummings of a cautious policy by the Government in the Black Legion investigation came shortly after Rep. Lesinski (D-Mich.) forwarded to the Department of Justice a bundle of letters from his constituents charging that high ranking Michigan officials have been actively linked with the organization of night-riding fanatics.

## Dickstein Asks Fund

Earlier Rep. Dickstein, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, called on the Senate to appropriate \$100,000 for a special House investigation of the klan.

At the same time Sen. Benson (F. L.-Minn.) introduced a resolution asking for a joint Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and "all kindred groups."

The committee would be authorized to sit all Summer and Fall with the stipulation that it make its report next January. Benson requested \$50,000 for the investigation. Lesinski declared:

"It looks very much like the Black Legion has spread its activities into many States and that fact alone should warrant a Federal investigation."

"The Michigan delegation will make a strong plea that the G-men go immediately into Michigan."

61-7398-A

WASHINGTON TIMES  
MAY 29, 1936.

# U. S. INQUIRY ON BLACK

## LEGION INCOMES

### FORECAST HERE

#### TAX VIOLATION BY LEADERS SUSPECTED

Unit That Put Capone  
In Prison Is Studying  
Michigan Reports

International News Service

An inquiry by the Federal Government into the financial affairs of Black Legion chieftains appeared certain today.

Elmer Irey, chief of the Internal Revenue Bureau's intelligence unit, whose agents sent Al Capone to prison for income tax violations, announced he will give careful consideration to reports from Michigan that hint possible tax evasions by leaders of the clan.

Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea requested the Internal Revenue Bureau to check the incomes of Black Legion heads.

61-7398-A

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#### Appeals for Aid

McCrea also appealed to Attorney General Cummings for aid in running down members of the far-flung band. Irely said:

"Agents of the intelligence unit in Michigan undoubtedly are watching developments in this case for possible disclosure of income tax violations."

Cummings promised McCrea he would send G-men into Michigan immediately upon receiving evidence of Federal violations by Black Legion members.

Following a conference with Chief J. Edgar Hoover of the Bureau of Investigation, the Attorney General asked McCrea to forward such evidence to the Justice Department. Cummings said that up to now the alleged depredations of the legion do not fall within Federal jurisdiction.

#### Resolution Passed

Meanwhile, Chairman Dickstein, of New York, of the House Immigration Committee, and Senator Benson (F.L.) of Minnesota, said they will press for action on their resolutions calling for a Congressional inquiry into activities of the group.

Dickstein announced he had gathered "startling information" which he will place before the House next week. He added:

"This information concerns organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred, and has come to me unsolicited."

The Michigan House delegation also considered issuance of a joint statement formally condemning activities of the Legion.

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# Battling Against Bigotry

The Duty of All Real Americans



Credited with fifty murders in the cause of "good government," the Black Legion in Michigan seems to be an even more sinister manifestation of racial and religious hatred than the Ku Klux Klan from which it apparently originated.

From the Declaration of Independence to the present day, tolerance of others' religious beliefs has been the mark of the true American.

That is one of the fundamental tenets of Americanism, embodied as such in the Constitution, upheld by the courts, practised in their daily lives by all good citizens.

Unlike Fascism or Communism, Americanism grants full liberty of conscience to all people, whether their ancestors came here on the Mayflower or via Ellis Island.

Intolerance has no place in the American scheme of things, and homicidal fanatics of the Black Legion type have no place in America.

One of many reasons why that typical American, Alf M. Landon, possesses the confidence of millions of his fellow Americans is his courageous stand on this issue as shown not only by his words but by his RECORD.

He fought the Klan in Kansas, campaigned for the anti-Klan candidate for Governor, risked his political future because **HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE INTOLERANCE.**

For such a man there can be only admiration, coupled with the knowledge that if he is called to the Presidency he will **STAND LIKE A ROCK AGAINST BIGOTRY**, however, and wherever manifested in this great country of ours.

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| Mr. Baughman | ..... |
| Chief Clerk  | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg    | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin   | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards  | ..... |
| Mr. Egan     | ..... |
| Mr. Foxworth | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo    | ..... |
| Mr. Joseph   | ..... |
| Mr. Keith    | ..... |
| Mr. Lester   | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn    | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey   | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy    | ..... |
| Miss Gandy   | ..... |

61-7348-A  
WASH. TIMES

MAY 29 1936

# G-MEN INVITED TO PROBE CULT

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE  
MAY 29, 1936

Cummings Suggests Sending  
of Evidence if Federal  
Statutes Violated.

INTERSTATE TRAIL SEEN

Detroit Prosecutor McCrea  
Charges Groups Active  
in 15 or 18 States.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (P).—Atty.-Gen. Cummings today invited Michigan state authorities to submit any evidence that the "Black Legion" had violated federal laws as a necessary prelude to action by the federal government.

The invitation was addressed to Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne county, who telegraphed the justice department asking that federal bureau of investigation agents be assigned to uncover the terrorist order's activities.

House and Senate Ready.

House and senate members also took action during the day, designed to clear the way for the federal government to assume jurisdiction in an investigation and possible prosecutions.

The Cummings message, sent the Wayne county prosecutor after the conference, said:

"As of course you are aware, the authority of the department of justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of federal statutes.

"If you have any information indicating that a federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the department of justice at Washington."

Interstate Activity Charged.

McCrea in his message asserted that he knew definitely "that the Black Legion is now operating in fifteen or eighteen states."

"I know that it is very active in New York and Chicago," McCrea declared. "I am unable to investigate the evidence and for that reason I have sought the aid of the department of justice."

"It has reason to believe that the activities of the (Black) legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a federal offense. Many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

operatives to strike at the black-robed order.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least fifteen states, by proposing that the internal revenue department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (O.) contractor, who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as selling them the death's head robes and other regalia they are charged with wearing on the midnight flogging parties of which they are accused in several states.

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Still another federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell, democrat of Michigan, who said he would ask that a federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole May 13 led to the fast-moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

"We have no idea how deep the inroads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piel. "The names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Henrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways, and eight employees have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

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Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Starnes  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Telford  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Miss Gandy

*Emm...*

100-244

THE 'ATLANTA GEORGIAN

# Black Legion Attacked by Klan Head

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, headed by J. Edgar Hoover, should break up terroristic activities of the Black Legion or any similar organization, "letting the chips fall where they may," Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku-Klux Klan, declared here Thursday.

Black Legion activities, he said, seem to be crossing state lines, and the federal government should, therefore, take a hand. This is especially the case, Dr. Evans said, because state officials seem to have become involved in the Black Legion affairs.

The Klan head said his organization had made a "superficial" investigation of the Black Legion, and all records and information which it possessed were at the disposal of federal authorities.

## 'G-MEN SHOULD ACT'

Initiative for the investigation lies with the G-men, he said, however.

"That's what they are paid to do, and that's what they should do," he said.

Dr. Evans said he had sent no formal communication to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Klan, he said, hopes the federal government will break up all terrorism, but is leaving active operations in the hands of legally constituted authorities.

Dr. Evans condemned the Black Legion vigorously for its "lawlessness" and declared that observation and enforcement of the law is the only course for American citizens to follow.

Michigan, he said, is a Midwest state, and there is much subversive activity in that area. In his opinion, which should be stamped out.

"The Leader in the March of Progress"

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1936

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

61-739

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## Right for G-Men to Move Against Terrorists Asked

### Michigan Congressmen Draft Legislation for Smashing Black Legion

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)—A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic congressmen began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the group, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it.

"This organization is evidently interested in its operations. It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal Government to stop this crime-fostering organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

Saying that the Black Legion might be tolerated in some of the "more backward foreign nations," Sadowski added that it has no place in the United States where the Constitution guarantees religious and political freedom.

He said he hoped a bill covering the desires of the committee could be completed by the end of the week.

A Justice Department spokesman indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, for a Federal investigation of the hooded organization.

*Handwritten initials: DM*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

*Handwritten initials: GNF*

*Doston Evening Transcript*  
5/29/36 64-7



# G-MEN READY TO START WAR ON VIGILANTES

Awaiting Only Evidence  
Of Lindbergh Law  
Violations

OTHER FORCES MOVE

Criminal Syndicalism Law  
May Be Invoked by  
Michigan.

Washington — (AP)—The federal government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion the moment it receives definite evidence that federal laws have been violated.

If Black Legionnaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across state lines, officials explained, the "G Men" will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the federal government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury the guilty persons may be punished with the death penalty.

## Must Have Evidence

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated that the government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the federal statute actually has been violated.

He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Michigan, who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

In Detroit it was said that Michigan's criminal syndicalism law, enacted to combat communism, may be invoked against the Black Legion.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County said today he contemplated the prosecution of 13 men whom he described as the "board of directors" of the night-riding terrorists in that county, under the statute.

## Long Terms Possible

It provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of \$5,000 for "advocacy . . . or teaching the duty or necessity of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism to accomplish industrial or political reform."

At least two grand jury investigations of the vigilantes were imminent, while both houses of Congress had before them resolutions demanding congressional inquiries.

Internal Revenue department officials declined to discuss a suggestion from McCrea that they inspect income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lhas. C., contractor described by the Detroit prosecutor as a regional leader of the order. They said such suggestions always were welcome.

Although McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger sold robes and hoods to the Black Legionnaires, and collected 10 cents a month from each member, Effinger said at Lhas. that "I haven't sold anything," and expressed no fear of an income tax inquiry.

The Hartford Times  
May 29, 1935  
Forwarded by New York Office

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baugh  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

61-734

May 29, 1936

*[Handwritten signature]*

Revelations that organizations similar to the Black Legion, unearthed in connection with a Detroit mob vengeance slaying, have been thriving for some time in several middle western states, are disquieting. Aside from one intimation that federal department of justice agents encountered evidence of the organization about eighteen months ago, nothing has been brought out as yet to show that it was the subject of official attention anywhere until the Detroit killing a few days ago. How a secret society so sinister in its purposes and method could flourish for more than a few weeks without being exposed by the police is what puzzles the people. The explanation that in some places the police may have been in collusion with the organizers hardly suffices to explain the secrecy.

Such organizations gain a foothold only when there is a considerable feeling among the people that law enforcement is weak. When a group of masked men undertakes to usurp the authority and function of the police and the courts, it is either bent on robbery and violence for gain, or is able to convince law-abiding men that something is wrong in law enforcement. So far there has been no showing that members of the Black Legion were organized to break the law for their own gain or that they were engaged in shielding lawbreakers. Indeed, one of their reported purposes is to enforce the law accord-

ing to their light. They assumed to correct what they believed to be the failures of the law and of duly constituted government.

To the extent that poor law enforcement inspired the growth of their membership, the situation can in a measure be overcome by good police work in breaking up the gangs and making cases against all that are guilty of taking the law into their own hands. In a free country the duty of every citizen dissatisfied with policies of government is to work for improvement by use of the ballot. No other plan can be tolerated. Terrorism in any form is a menace to free government, and to peace and good order, and its authors are enemies of society. The Detroit exposure is a warning to every community to make a complete investigation and govern itself accordingly.

Mrs. [unclear]  
Mr. T. H.  
Mrs. R.  
[unclear]  
The [unclear]  
[unclear]  
Mr. E.  
Mr. F.  
Mr. G.  
Mr. H.  
Mr. I.  
Mr. J.  
Mr. K.  
Mr. L.  
Mr. M.  
Mr. N.  
Mr. O.

COPY 8

61-7398-A

*Toledo Blade's Program for Toledo*  
 Develop Mooring Basin.  
 Develop downtown water front park.  
 Enforce traffic rules without exceptions.  
 City purchase of Transcontinental Airport.

## Black Legion Hysteria Will Cool

**PROSECUTOR REAMS** says he has no information upon which to base an official investigation of the Black Legion by the Lucas county grand jury. If and when arrests are made or evidence of criminal activities by this organization in Lucas county is presented, witnesses will be summoned and a thorough investigation begun.

But no organization of so-called vigilantes, or avengers, or even of professional criminals, could have committed all the major crimes and atrocities which the police, the prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials in all parts of the country, now suggest may have been committed by the Black Legion.

\* \* \*

And we do not believe for one moment that the Black Legion has millions of oath-bound, dues-paying members. Active as it may have been in a few localities, it is unthinkable that hundreds of mysterious murders and kidnappings and threats of violence can be attributed rightfully to its membership.

We have only words of condemnation for mobs or organizations which fan race or religious prejudices into flame and whose methods are those of violence, but out of the sordid Detroit murder story, a veritable nation-wide Black Legion hysteria seems to have developed. Some of the reports come from beyond the frontiers of reason. They overtax the credulity of intelligent readers.

\* \* \*

Prosecutor Reams' position in this matter is sound and sensible. He will sink the probe quickly, and deep, when he finds something more substantial than rumors and guesses and gossip upon which to base an investigation.

Meanwhile the wide unfavorable publicity which the Black Legion has been given may serve at least one good purpose—that of putting another robed and hooded organization out of business.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*The Toledo Blade*  
*Toledo, Ohio*  
*5-29-36*

*61-73967*

## KLAN CHIEF ADVISES ENDING BLACK LEGION

Evans Urges G-Men to Act as  
They Did on Kidnapers.

By the Associated Press.

ATLANTA, May 29.—Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, urged the federal government today to stamp out the Black Legion, hooded terrorist society.

"The federal government has

brought kidnaping to an end in America," he says, "and if the same efficient men are instructed to go to the bottom of the Black Legion, they will end night riding in the United States."

Evans denied emphatically that any connection existed between the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan. A suspect under investigation in Detroit told officers that the Black Legion drew its members from among former members of the Klan.

"The Ku Klux Klan is opposed to terrorism and does not believe in any illegal action for any cause whatsoever," Evans said, pledging the Klan's aid in stamping out the Black Legion.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Bengtman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

MR. TANN

EW/2

# INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

May 29, 1936

## WATCH BEING KEPT ON BLACK LEGION

Officials Assert They Have No  
Trace of Organization in  
Indianapolis.

Authorities in Indianapolis today held to a policy of "watchful waiting" in connection with purported Black Legion activities here.

Thus far not a single official of the county, city or federal government in Indianapolis has received reliable information that the Black Legion is even organized in this city, and none has been informed of any overt acts by stray members.

A calling card put into a mail box at the apartment of Miss Helen Benham, 656 East Twelfth street, Thursday night, was said to be typical of the type of pranks invariably following nation-wide stories on secret cults.

It bore the name "Black Legion," with the words Captain and Agent M 68 inscribed in one corner.

Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, said he had received copies of two handbills found Thursday by some boys. The handbills purported to carry the oath of the Black Legion, together with much of the organization's hocus-pocus. But there was no proof they were authentic and there was no flurry of excitement about them.

John Dowd, head of the department of justice office, repeated a previous statement that he had not heard anything about the Black Legion in Indianapolis, and that his department was not investigating anything connected with it.

Sheriff Otto Ray, who said his men had beaten on the alert for a county organization of the Black Legion, reported they had found no indications that it existed here.

*fin*

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

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61-7098-A

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[illegible]

Prosecutor Spencer said that any further information discovered would be turned over to the grand jury along with the alleged documents found by The Times and now in his hands.

Meanwhile in Detroit Duncan McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, said evidence has been turned up in the last 12 hours that leads investigators to believe that Vern F. Effinger, Lima, O., has been active in organizing the Black Legion in Indiana. McCrea said the Department of Justice, which yesterday agreed to assign him agents for the case, had now decided to withhold cooperation pending developments.

Miss Helen Bonham, 656 E. 12th-st, told police she found a calling card in her mail box last night on which was printed, "Black Troops Capt., Agent 37." This card did not resemble the other notes discovered elsewhere Wednesday night.

A seal was stamped on the back of the card and inside the seal in red ink was stamped "N 28. Other numbers on the back but not in the seal were "XX 9" and "N 28-27."

She told detectives she did not know who could have put the card there.

61-7398-A

May 29, 1936

# BLACK LEGION HOAX LIKELY

## Two Handbills Found in City Believed Work of Sen- sation Seekers.

There is no concrete evidence that the Black Legion is organized in Indianapolis, city, county, state and Federal law enforcement officials said last night.

Two typewritten handbills purported to be literature of the Black Legion, which were reported found here yesterday, are believed to be the work of "sensation seekers" intent upon perpetrating a hoax, it was said.

An alleged Black Legion "calling card" was found by Miss Helen Bonham, 656 East Twelfth street, Apt. 4, in her mail box last night. It was smudged with fingerprints and bore the printing: "Black Legion" and in the lower corners "Captain" and "Agent M 63."

Photostatic copies of the handbills were obtained by Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, last night and he said that an effort will be made to trace the typewriter on which they were written.

### Both Found By Boys.

Both of the handbills were found by boys. One was lying in the street and the other was stuck behind a door knob in an apartment building.

The handbills were in two sheets. One sheet was an alleged membership blank and the other announced that members would call "in robe" to collect membership dues. The alleged oath of the Black Legion also was printed on the bills.

Officials point out that if Black Legion organizers had distributed literature more than two copies would have come to light. Chief Morrissey said that the police department has received no information of citizens finding similar handbills at their home.

Herbert M. Spencer, prosecuting attorney, said that in event of a law violation attributed to the Black Legion an extensive investigation would be made. Aside from the finding of the two handbills he said

that he had heard nothing about the organization being established in the county.

### No Evidence in State.

Neither has evidence been uncovered to indicate that the Black Legion is organized in any part of the state, according to Governor Paul V. McNutt.

Sheriff Otto Ray and Capt. Matt Leach, head of the state police, said that nothing has come to their attention which would indicate activity of the organization in Marion county or any place in the state.

G-men here will not investigate Black Legion activities unless a Federal law violation is attributed to its members and thus far there has been no information received that it is operating in this state. John A. Dowd, chief investigator of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, said:

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

61-7378-1A

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## Black Legion 'Domination' of Relief Office Is Bared

COLUMBUS, O.—Transcripts of detailed testimony concerning alleged Black Legion "domination" of Allen County poor relief administration was made public today by Rep. H. T. Phillips (R.) of Athens County, member of the joint legislative relief investigating committee which conducted hearings in Lima last July. Two witnesses told the committee

members of the Black Legion were given preference in the granting of relief, were made foremen on relief projects, and that non-members were discriminated against.

One of these witnesses, George Armstrong, Lima, admitted under oath he was a Legion member.

While he was being cross-examined, Armstrong was said to have admitted Legion members took an oath "to kill their enemies, if necessary," and to "sweat to a lie" to protect fellow members.

Asked if he had heard of anybody being killed, Armstrong replied, "I am not saying as to that."

He said Legion enemies are "anyone who would oppose them."

Armstrong, during his testimony, named three men he said were in control of Allen County relief work and legionnaires.

These were Guy Effinger, Lima, since identified as a Black Legion officer; Glen Webb, a Lima newspaperman, and William Zimmerman.

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Mr. Buchanan	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....

61-7391-A

MAY 28 1936

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## Violent Crimes in Ohio Laid to Black Legion; Threat to Kidnap Davey's Daughter Is Cited

By The Associated Press.

COLUMBUS, May 27.—A report of three official investigators connecting the Black Legion with acts of violence in Ohio and blaming the hooded order for threats to kidnap a daughter of Governor Davey was made public today by State Representative H. T. Phillips.

The investigators, Charles J. Skill and Claude L. Recker of Columbus and Hubert J. Schwartz of Cleveland, aided a legislative committee which investigated relief administration in Allen County (Lima) a year ago.

The report, made to the committee but never submitted to the Legislature, was released on the heels of action by authorities over the State to connect various acts of violence with the night riders.

Meetings of the legion, the investigators said, were usually held "from 1 A. M. until daylight in an open field in the country."

"We obtained the statements of two men who had been officers of the organization," the investigators said. "They told where the meetings had been held and said one of the leaders bragged about burning down Twin Oaks roadhouse (near Lima) and that he was ordered to burn another roadhouse."

The State investigators said their informants declared the organization was "suspected of the threats against Governor Davey's daughter."

The Governor disclosed more than a year ago that threats had been made to kidnap his daughter, but he did not order an investigation.

Other acts charged to the legion by informants of the three investigators were the seizure of a motion picture film from a Lima theater, the beating of a man who was generally believed to have been hit by

a freight train, and instigation of a Northwestern Ohio union strike.

"We received estimates that 82 per cent of the Allen County relief administrative department, as well as the works division employees, were members of the organization," they said.

Their report mentioned also the alleged attack on William Smith, a 55-year-old Waynesfield farmer, and said that he was severely beaten because he was unwilling to join the night-riders.

Sheriff W. E. Kelley of Auglaize County said he reported the attack on Smith, an unwilling candidate for membership in the Black Legion, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but in Washington spokesmen for the G men said they had no record of the case.

A member of the Black Legion told a legislative investigating committee last July that its members swore to kill their enemies "if necessary."

The testimony was that of George Armstrong, Lima, relief worker, in a hearing at Lima July 23.

Portions of the testimony follow: Q—I don't know if you want to answer me on this proposition, but did you become a member of what is known as the "Black Legion?" A—I did.

Q—And did you take that oath of the Black Legion, to tell a lie if necessary to support some of your members? A—I did.

Q—Now, was that organization connected with, lined up with relief in this county? A—It was.

Q—Do they swear in that organization an oath to kill their enemies if necessary? A—They do.

Q—And who are their enemies? A—Well, any one that would oppose them.

Q—You never heard of anybody getting killed, did you? A—I am not saying as to that.

## THE 'BLACK LEGION' HAPPENED HERE

Every week brings evidence that Sinclair Lewis was right: that a dangerously large section of the population of the United States is fertile seed for Fascism.

The most shocking disclosure to date is the existence of the "Black Legion." The claim that this armed secret organization has 135,000 members in Michigan is probably exaggerated and the statement that there are 6,000,000 members in the United States is certainly absurd. Nevertheless, it has been established that the "Black Legion" is a large and powerful force in several sections of the nation.

Even the "Black Legion's" responsibility for the cold-blooded murder of at least one man is not as important as the fact that the terrorist organization arose out of economic causes and uses "patriotism" and religious bigotry as its rallying points.

In its background the "Black Legion" reproduces part of the familiar pattern which led to the present German and Italian Governments. That its political program called for a dictatorship is significant of its similarity to European terror movements like the Brown Shirts and the Fascist street gangs.

The Detroit suburbs where it is strongest are those filled up during the 1920's by automobile workers recruited from the South, especially from the benighted and impoverished regions of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Ignorant, unable to adjust themselves readily to their new life, particularly to the insecurity of industrial employment, these men tended to band together for protection.

It is not surprising that shrewd organizers were able to restore a lost feeling of self-importance by pledging them to attack "Negroes, communists, Jews and Catholics" and to defend "the laws and Constitution" of the United States.

The fact that the first purpose is directly counter to the spirit of the latter will startle only those who expect consistency of such movements.

The organization has indulged in threats, catings and, apparently, killings. That it has recruited its members by "shanghai" methods is shown by the story of an ex-Legion member now running in The Post. It is significant that at least two of their victims were active in the automobile unions.

The fierce competition for jobs, the failure of the labor unions to organize these men with their backgrounds, the labor policies of the industries in the Detroit region left them a prey to those who knew how to play upon their prejudices, their insecurity and their ignorance. The men who later became Hitler's Brown Shirts passed through comparable experiences before they were enlisted under the swastika through similar methods.

Detroit authorities have asked assistance of the United States Department of Justice in investigating the "Black Legion." The Federal Government should respond immediately. The sooner this thing is dragged out into the open the less harm it will be able to do.

America doesn't want and should not tolerate secret armed terrorist bands. But it will not be enough to break up this particular organization and imprison its officers. What of similar organizations which are reported operating in the Mid West, in the Far West, the South and, to a lesser extent, in the East? What of the Klan in Queens? What about Tampa?

For a hundred years organizations of this nature have played a sinister part in American life. Although they seem remote in their principles from economic aims, it is notable that they rise to greater heights during periods of economic stress and change such as those which preceded and followed the Civil War and that through which we have passed since the World War.

Was all well with the nation during the "prosperous" 1920s which produced the Ku Klux revival? Is the great industrial city of Detroit "fundamentally sound" today when such numbers of its workers will band together in armed mobs based upon terrorism and bigotry?

Or does insecurity here, as elsewhere, produce reversions to un-American principles?

New York Post

MAY 28 1936

61-7398-A

# PLOT TO KIDNAP DAVEY'S CHILD LAID TO CULT

**Black Legion Suspected of Threat to Ohio Governor by Legislative Probers**

COLUMBUS, O., May 27 (AP).—State Rep. H. T. Phillips made public tonight a report of three official investigators connecting the Black Legion with acts of violence in Ohio and blaming the hooded order for threats to kidnap a daughter of Gov. and Mrs. Martin L. Davey.

The investigators, Charles J. Skill and Claud L. Recker of Columbus, and Hubert J. Schwartz of Cleveland, aided a legislative committee which investigated relief administration in Allen County (Lima) a year ago.

## State Probes Violence

The report was released by Phillips on the heels of action by authorities over the State to connect various acts of violence with the black-robed night riders.

Meetings of the Legion, the investigators said, usually were held from 1 a. m. until daylight, in an open field in the country. They added:

"We obtained statements of two men who had been officers of the organization. They said one of the leaders bragged about burning down Twin Oaks roadhouse (near Lima), and that he was ordered to burn another roadhouse."

The State investigators said their informants declared the organization was "suspicioned of the threats against Davey's daughter." The Governor disclosed more than a year ago that threats had been made to kidnap his daughter.

# Black Cult Formed 'To Fight Reds'

*Member Says It Would Arm in 24 Hours If Revolt Started*

DETROIT, May 27 (AP).—The Detroit News quoted an informant identified only as a former member of the Black Legion as saying the organization was interested principally in suppressing Communism. The News' informant said:

"If Communists started a revolution, the entire Black Legion would be in arms in 24 hours. It would take only 51 minutes to mobilize its force in Michigan. Policemen, sheriffs and politicians galore are members."

The unnamed former member also said that Poole, although he was a Catholic, was a member and that he was slain because he "began making fun of the organization."

The informant added:

"But when he was killed, it was absolutely against the rules of the Black Legion. It does not tolerate shooting. Every member of the group that was in on the Poole killing is in bad standing with the rest of the Legion. If any of them are released, they will be taken care of by the Legion."

# DICKSTEIN ASKS CONGRESS QUIZ OF BLACK CULT

**Spurred by Revelations of Michigan 'Reign of Terror,' He Urges Probe Committee**

By EUGENE KELLY,  
Universal Service Correspondent

WASHINGTON, May 27 (US).—Spurred by disclosures of the Black Legion's "reign of terror" in Michigan, Chairman Dickstein, of the House Immigration Committee, today introduced a resolution for appointment of a special house committee to investigate its activities.

At the same time Attorney General Cummings, asked by Detroit authorities to lend Federal aid in destroying the terrorist organization, said he would reply to Prosecutor McCrea tomorrow.

## Threaten Congressman

House members disclosed Representative Hoffman (R.), Michigan, had been threatened, presumably by agents of the group of terrorists. In a letter received here Hoffman was branded "a two-faced rat." The letter was signed "K. K. K.—look out for the hood."

## Resolution Pushed

The Dickstein resolution was speeded to the Rules Committee, where proponents of the investigation will push for immediate consideration.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

61-7398

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## Bomb Sent Curley Laid to Black Cult

BOSTON, Mass., May 27 (US).—Possibility that the clock bomb recently sent to Governor Curley was a machination of the Black Legion, sensational Detroit killer band, was being investigated by State police here tonight.

## ~~2~~ More Slayings Blamed on Cult

*Cleveland Police Renew  
Probe Into Deaths of  
Decapitated Men*

CLEVELAND, May 27 (AP).—Detective Inspector Nevel ordered renewed investigation of two unsolved slayings when an anonymous telephone message said to "Look into the murders of those two men and you'll find the Black Legion was responsible."

The nude bodies of the men, both decapitated, were found together in an isolated ravine last September.

One of the victims was Edward Andrassy, 28. The other body, that of a man about 40 years old, was not identified.

Mrs. Helen Andrassy, the slain man's mother, said a stranger called at her home the morning he disappeared and said:

"Tell Eddy I'm going to get him for playing around with my wife."

# Congress Asked to Probe Black Legion; New York Believed a Center of Cult

Link Terrorists to Plot  
To Kidnap Daughter  
Of Ohio Governor;  
Plea to G-Men

## RURAL AIDES

*Developments yesterday in the investigation of the Black Legion were:*

Demand by Rep. Dickstein (D.-N. Y.) for a Congressional investigation of the organization.

An appeal to the Department of Justice for G-men to enter the probe from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit.

Charges that the Legion was highly organized in rural New York.

Revelation of a plot to kidnap the daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio.

Investigation renewed into deaths of two men who were beheaded in Cleveland, O., last September.

# 'NIGHT RIDERS' PROBE ASKED OF CONGRESS

Dickstein Demands Action on  
Michigan Reign of Fear  
Threat to Member Bared

By EUGENE KELLY

Spurred by disclosures of the Black Legion's "reign of terror" in Michigan, Chairman Dickstein, of the House Immigration Committee, yesterday introduced a resolution for appointment of a special House committee to investigate its activities.

At the same time, Attorney General Cummings revealed at his press conference the Department of Justice is maintaining a close watch on developments.

## MEMBER THREATENED

Members of the Michigan House delegation disclosed one of their members, Representative Hoffman (R.) had been threatened, presumably by agents of the group of terrorists. In a letter received here, Hoffman was branded "a two-faced rat." The letter was signed "KKK—Look out for the hood."

Michigan delegates said the Black Legion worked so secretly they were unaware of its existence.

Dickstein, vice-chairman of the House Committee on un-American activities which last year uncovered distribution of propaganda designed to foment an uprising against the Government, announced he would introduce a separate resolution today requesting \$100,000 to carry out the proposed House investigation into the "character and extent" of the Black Legion's ramifications.

## ACTION IS HURRIED

The Dickstein resolution was speeded to the Rules Committee where proponents of the investigation will push for immediate consideration. With approval by the House, the committee would hold hearings all summer and fall, Dickstein said.

In addition to the Black Legion, the resolution incorporated the Black Shirts, the Christian Party and the A. B. C. Legion, of New York. All four organizations, Dickstein charged, are distributing propaganda intended to foment racial and religious prejudices. The A. B. C. group, he said, made Catholics and Jews an especial target of "malicious persecution."

## G-MEN GET EVIDENCE

Dickstein said already he had uncovered "some evidence" in connection with the Black Legion's drive against Jews and Catholics. He said he would turn it over to the Department of Justice for investigation, if that agency possesses legal authority.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Backus	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-7398-A

WASH HERALD

MAY 28 1936

## TURN ON THE LIGHT.

THE VILE doings of the so-called Black Legion form another challenge to the Senate, which is being asked by Sen. La Follette to authorize a thoroughgoing investigation into violations of civil liberties under the American flag.

Here is an outfit that admits itself an outlaw. Its alleged murders, arsons, assaults and terrorisms are directed against such minority groups as Catholics, Jews, Negroes, Communists and others. While the Michigan police appear to be doing a splendid job of tracking down the actual criminals, they probably will not learn all that should be learned of this revival of the old K. K. K. spirit, and of the peculiar breed of humans being gripped by its sadistic religion of hate.

Congressman Dickstein's proposal to investigate the Black Legion is, we believe, ill-timed. His anti-Nazi and other investigations have not been particularly fruitful of results in unearthing significant facts. The La Follette investigation could be better financed and better manned. A House probe of a single phenomenon would not only be a duplication but a dissipation of effort.

The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same piece as teachers' oaths, anti-red forays into campuses, vigilante and lynching mobs, anti-labor terrorism and the other manifestations of special interest racketeering wrapped in the garb of patriotism. It is the Senate's business to light a lamp and search these social rat holes. If it fails to launch the La Follette investigation and finance it with adequate funds it will have failed in one of its most important duties.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Daughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Gandy

WASH. NEWS

MAY 28 1936

JOSEPH

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## 'What if I Am?'



—News-Scene  
 "What if I am?" That was the answer of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, O., electrical contractor, when asked if he were leader of the "Black Legion," alleged secret terrorist society, in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Admitting he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan and evincing knowledge of the legion, Effinger, who resembles a movie "western sheriff," is said to have stated that the latter had 3,000,000 members. An Ohio legislator charged that Effinger was one of three who controlled relief in Allen County.

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WASH. NEWS

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PHILADELPHIA EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER  
5-28-36

**Act to Empower G-Men  
To Smash Black Legion**

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—A strong movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the committee, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not, then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it."

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Mr. E. J. .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

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# U. S. to Fight Black Legion As Kidnapers

## Evidence of Interstate Violations Awaited to Put G-Men in Action

Washington, May 29 (AP)—The Federal Government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion in the moment it receives definite evidence that Federal laws have been violated.

If Black Legionaires are shown to have kidnaped persons and transported them across State lines, officials explained, the G-men will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Federal Government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury, the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated that the Government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the Federal statute actually has been violated. He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Michigan, who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

**To Invoke Syndicalism Law**  
Detroit, May 29 (AP)—Michigan's criminal syndicalism law, enacted to combat Communism, may be invoked against the Black Legion, whose members are accused of floggings and even slayings in the guise of defense against Communists.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County said today he contemplated the prosecution of 25 men whom he described as the board of directors of the night-riding terrorists in that county, under the statute.

it provides for imprisonment up to ten years and a maximum fine of \$5,000 for "advocacy . . . or teaching the duty or necessity of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism to accomplish industrial or political reform."

At least two Grand Jury investigations of the night-riding vigilantes were imminent, while both Houses of Congress had before them resolutions demanding Congressional inquiries.

Proposed legislation to curb the order was in preparation at the national capitol, and the Internal Revenue Bureau considered a suggestion that it inquire into the income tax returns of a reputed leader of the Black Legionaires.

Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea prepared to assemble for submission to United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings evidence he said showed the order is active in at least 15 States. "The hauling of bodies across State boundary lines," was one of his charges against Black Legionaires.

### Damaging Letters Shown

Prosecutor McCrea exhibited scores of letters today from nearly all parts of the United States, giving information about alleged Black Legion activities or expressing fear of terrorism.

It was because so many letters came from other States, McCrea said, that he asked the Department of Justice to help in the investigation that started in Michigan.

From Dallas, Texas, came a letter signed "A Member" and asserting that "the legion had Huey Long killed."

"In some Southern cities," the writer said, "where Negroes are lynched, the general says the Black Legion takes in 300 new members after one lynching."

In Pontiac, Mich., members of a hastily organized citizens committee said they had received evidence that Black Legion members held high offices in the local government.

Charles P. Webster, once a Democratic candidate for Congress and now a member of the investigating committee, said that "witnesses are being threatened with death if they talk to us."

### Blood Note Warns Police

Reports that fear-stricken members of the Black Legion were burning their hoods and robes were received today.

A letter, said by Detective Richard Bower of the Detroit police laboratories to have been written in human blood, was received by the police department today, warning it to "let off the Black Legion."

The note, signed "The White Legion," was printed in letters nearly

a half inch high, and was postmarked New York. New York authorities were asked to investigate.

The Detroit Free Press said it had information connecting Pontiac Black Legionaire, including a police officer, with a lynching in Lima, Ohio, about a year ago, but the newspaper said Lima police had been unable to find any record of such a death there.

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Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Daughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Joseph	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schick	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

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ber. I've been a nervous wreck ever since."

## 'Black Snakes' Probed In Indiana

*By The United Press*

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28—Sheriff George W. Gillie said today evidence in his possession points to a connection between the notorious Black Legion and the "Mystic Order of Black Snakes," an organization allegedly responsible for terroristic activities in Allen County.

Sheriff Gillie said several victims of the Black Snake order have recited stories of being haled before the "high tribunal" of the black-hooded and robed group and threatened.

A former township official and his chief deputy were said to be among the victims. They reportedly told of being threatened with severe beatings if they discharged two members of the organization then working under the official.

*By The United Press*

COLUMBUS, O., May 28—The Black Legion was suspected of having threatened more than a year ago to kidnap Gov. M. L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, according to a report of three special investigators for the Ohio Joint Relief Investigating Committee, made public today.

The investigators, C. J. Skill and C. L. Recker of Columbus and H. J. Schwartz of Cleveland, gave no reason for their suspicions.

The kidnap threat against the Governor's daughter was received shortly after he took office. She was guarded for a time. Miss Davey since has become the wife of Alexander Smith.

# MINISTER DEFIED LEGION AT RITES

Refused to Take Oath to  
Kill, Even When Guns Were  
Pointed at Him.

By the Associated Press.

JACKSON, Mich., May 28.—Charles Standish, a suspended prison guard who said he was forced to join the Black Legion, disclosed today how a minister, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, 45, of Rives Junction, Mich., defied the guns and death threats of the terrorists and refused to join.

Standish said he was invited to a "stag party" by a guard sergeant and that when they arrived at a grove they found 80 men, some of them hooded and robed.

"About 15 of us, including Mr. Montague and myself, were pushed into a line. Men in masks and hoods formed a ring around us and leveled pistols and rifles at us," Standish said.

"We were told we had been selected for membership in the Black Legion. There was one fellow wearing a robe who was bossing things. He began asking us the questions in the ritual.

"I was so surprised and scared I just said yes to everything. I said yes when the tough guy asked if we would be willing to kill if we were ordered to by the Black Legion.

"One of the men in the line didn't say yes, though. He said:

"No; certainly not."

"It was the minister. He spoke right out and it got very quiet. In a minute all the guns seemed to be right around the minister.

"The minister said, 'Just a moment, I don't believe in belonging to any organization of the sort this apparently is.'

Many of the men shouted "String him up!" Standish said, "but Mr. Montague replied:

"Gentlemen, I've taught the gospel of God and if you are going to kill me, I'm prepared to die."

The minister was released after leaders at the meeting conferred.

Handwritten: *Hand*

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Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
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Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Rm.  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

## America Is Ripe for a Dictator, States Harrison

Editor, The News:

THE recent disclosures regarding the activities of the Black Legion indicate on a small scale the kind of terror America must expect when "It Happens Here."

However moronic or misguided the members of the Black Legion may be, their ranks, like the ranks of the Klan and similar terroristic societies, are generally controlled by clever strategists.

The Black Legion is not to be dismissed lightly—to be censured editorially and then forgotten. The power of Hitler was recruited from just this sort of petty middle-class criminal and lumpenproletariat. The masses of Italy are now subdued by the same methods.

America is ripe for a dictator. We have probably had our last president. When the present Administration attempts its retrenchment and thousands of former Government employees, married and single, are turned out to search for miserable jobs in private employment—jobs that may never exist—these thousands are going to be ready converts for any dictator (unless the WPA continues), Fascist or Communist, and Black Legions will spring up all over the country.

JAMES HARRISON.

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## Senator Calls for Probe of Terrorist Organizations

WASHINGTON, May 28 (By International News Service).—A joint resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and kindred terrorist organizations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator Benson, (FL), of Minnesota.

A special committee of four Representatives and four Senators would be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to investigate any or all activities of such subversive groups throughout the country.

A similar resolution was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Dickstein (D.), of New York.

### OFFICIALS ACCUSED.

Letters accusing high officials in Michigan of being implicated in the Black Legion's reign of terror were sent to the Department of Justice today by Rep. Lesinski (D.), of Michigan.

Because of the seriousness of the charges and uncertainty as to their truthfulness, he declined to make the letters public.

The letters were expected to be turned over to J. Edgar Hoover's Bureau of Investigation for study and possible action. Refusing to divulge any names, Lesinski said "they are higher-up officials."

In the face of an apparent reluctance on the part of leaders to authorize a new investigation, Dickstein planned to address a formal letter to the House Rules Committee asking approval of the resolution.

"I expect to take the floor of the House on Monday or Tuesday and disclose startling unsolicited information which has reached me about organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred," said Dickstein.

### WIDE INQUIRY ASKED

"If the Townsend investigation was worth \$50,000 to the House this inquiry I proposed would be worth \$1,000,000. It is important because there is a native subversive movement in this country.

"I think I can link up the Black Legion with the Black Shirts organization."

In addition to an investigation of the Black Legion, Dickstein urged inquiry into the Black Shirts, the Christian Party, the A. B. C. Legion of New York and the Robert E. Edmonston organization, also of New York.

He exhibited a circular purporting to be issued by Robert E. Edmonston attacking Jews. The A. B. C. Legion, he said, was sponsored

by C. Lewis Forlwer of New York. Formed to promote "cultural and good citizenship," Dickstein charged that it has 50,000 members who are fostering anti-Semitism. He exhibited a circular assailing "orientalism, absolutism and Karl Marxism" in the United States.

### PROBE MOVE DEFEATED.

COLUMBUS, O., May 28 (By International News Service).—An attempt to force a Statewide investigation of the Black Legion was defeated today in the Ohio Senate.

The Upper House rejected by a vote of 16 to 9 a resolution introduced by Sen. John R. Davis, (D.) Cleveland, calling for appointment of a five-member commission to investigate the blackrobed secret order and frame legislation designed to drive it from the State.

Charges that the Black Legion organization in Lima, O., and Allen County, threatened Evangeline Davey, daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey, were being investigated today by a special joint legislative committee.

The riot-ridden McDull onion strike, the burning of buildings at McGuffey, O., control of 82 per cent of the relief organization of Allen County, and numerous outrages were laid to the door of the organization in an investigators' report to the committee.

The report, made to the committee which has been investigating relief but never submitted to the Legislature, was made public by State Representative T. T. Phillips.

Phillips declared that evidence showed that 82 per cent of the Allen County Relief Administration Department at Lima were members of the organization.

### 'SNAKES' KIDNAP

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28 (By International News Service).—

"The Mystic Order of Black Snakes," a weird, hooded, night-riding band that kidnaped and threatened two township officials last night, is an agency of the infamous "Black Legion," Sheriff George W. Gillis said he believed today.

While he refused to reveal the identities of the kidnap victims, the Sheriff said they had been seized on the street here, forced into an automobile, and carried before 12 hooded, armed men seated upon a "crescent shaped throne." Other hooded figures

# Black Legion Blame Put on Public

## Murder Bonds' Growth Is Laid on Tolerance of Intolerance.

BY DOROTHY THOMPSON.

"I AM very remorseful. It's a funny thing, but I never had a feeling that I wanted to kill anybody that I can remember. I was under an illusion. I didn't have any idea what I was getting into when I joined up two years ago."

The speaker was Dayton Dean, a city employee of Detroit, who was admitting to the peculiarly horrible murder of Charles A. Poole, a W. P. A. worker of the same town on the date of May 12.

"We wanted to be a necktie party with ropes and regalia," said Dean. "That would make it more impressive. Dorothy Thompson left some of the. We got tired of waiting, said so I shot him. I thought it was my job."

And with the death of Poole the Michigan police authorities began an investigation, which in the last few days has uncovered a fantastic organization, running across State lines, of yet undiscovered ramifications, of "white male Protestants," pledged to "defend the United States and the Constitution"; to dominate politics in city and county and State; to exterminate anarchy, Communists, Catholics, Negroes and Jews; to restrict immigration and deport all undesirable aliens; to support and participate in lynch law; to arm its members for civil war, while pledging them by a blood oath to absolute secrecy and absolute obedience to their superiors, and eventually, to establish a dictatorship in America.

See in your imaginations these men, gathered together at night, in some remote place. They wear black or white hoods to conceal their faces. They wear black or white robes—purchased from the organization—worth \$1.25, price \$7. Guards with pointed revolvers cover them. They are addressed by a chaplain, the servant of "white protestantism."

"Remember," he whispers, "Our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies. Mercy... has no place in the fighter's outfit. We recognize but one power (death) to separate us in the hour of peril: we are bound by this stronger than honor."



Dorothy Thompson

They are questioned by the commanding officer: "Do you believe in a Supreme Being? A future reward, and punishment? Can you ride a horse, drive a car, shoot a rifle? Do you believe in white supremacy? Would you lie if ordered by your superior? You may be required to do some service on a higher plane than ordinary night riding. And for that you must take an oath in blood."

They scratch their arms and swear the black oath, the blood oath. They accept for themselves "for roof the sky, for the earth, and for reward death."

Who are these men, standing in the darkness, swearing such oaths, later to be translated into action? "Good people from all walks of life who were brought to their senses when communism and other isms invaded the United States from other countries," their leader, a Michigan milk inspector, Arthur Lupp, testified. Who are these men? Poor folk. Kill billies from the mountains of the South invading Detroit looking for work. "One purpose was to get jobs for members." None of those questioned were unemployed. Several said they had got jobs through other members. Whom do they hate? Life, which has treated them badly. Who is to blame? Some scapegoat is to blame. The niggers, working in the fields that should be theirs. Or the Jews. Do they not keep the prosperous shops? Or the Communists. Aren't some of the papers full of the Communist peril? Or the trade unionists, who enlist the skilled and leave the unskilled. Or the Catholics, who have a pope in Rome.

They are the poor, the credulous, the violent; little men, full of confused hatred. They are the gullible. The organization, they are told, dates back to Revolutionary days. It has 13 officers, representing the 13 original colonies. They have a direct link with the Ku Klux Klan and its old night riders.

### Unaware of True Purpose.

They come into the organization unaware of its true purpose. They sign a simple pledge, joining an order to uphold the Constitution. They are lured into it by appeal to their basic racial prejudices and with promises of recreational activities and business help. The rest is forced upon them. Betrayal of secrets is death. They are now members of a gang.

The organization is not confined to Michigan. There was that affair a short time ago in Florida. The Toledo Blade reports the existence of the movement in Ohio. Echoes of it are everywhere. They are on my desk in the Herald Tribune. Here is Mr. Robert Edward Edmondson of Washington, who writes me to join the "Christian Vigilantes." He writes:

Dear Madam: These two pamphlets are act... Post 22 of the Christian Vigilantes, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who was foully murdered by the Jew likes. Over 170,000 copies of these two pamphlets have been distributed in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Death to the Jew Infested League of National Hell Hitler!

Motto (says Mr. Edmondson) please learn by heart: Christian Nordic white America will, in the spirit of Hitler, keep the Jews and niggers in their place of Jim Crow inferiority.

### Invited to Enlist in War.

And he invites me to enlist in a war "against Jews, niggers, Japs, Chinese, all other colored un-Aryan swine, communists, pacifists, strikers, internationalists, under the radiant cross of Jesus."

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.

Or here is another correspondent, who informs me that I am only one of many thousands who have been circulated with the information that the murder of the Lindbergh baby was performed as an act of ritual by Jews to revenge against the Gentile world! What can be done about it?

J. Edgar Hoover, says the Federal Government, can do nothing. The Federal police can participate in action to apprehend kidnappers who have taken a person across State lines to hold him for ransom. But the Lindbergh law, it is argued, does not permit the Federal Government to track down those who kidnap and kill, not for gain, but because the superior has ordered it. Under the virgin is a Catholic or a Jew? It is forbidden

to send obscene postal cards in the mails, but not literature enlisting by co-operation against a whole class of American citizens, and suggesting civil war. States reserve to themselves, under the Constitution, the right to lynch their own minorities. What the Federal Government can do, however, under the law is to investigate! Let us at least find out how widespread, how numerous are these murder bands!

Who is to blame? You and I are to blame. All of us who listen tolerantly to intolerant expressions of racial and religious prejudice, without registering our own indignation against such un-American ideas. All of us who tolerate without protest the theory that any man who strikes for better wages is a dangerous radical. All of us who accept lies which we are able to contradict. All of us who all amugly by and think that it can't happen here!

(Copyright 1934)

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JUL 1936

# G-MEN SOUGHT FOR PROBE OF BLACK LEGION

## Bill Clothing Them with Needed Power To Be Introduced

Washington —(AP)— A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began drafting legislation to allow white agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the committee, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it."

### At the Meeting

Meeting with Sadowski, who represents the first Michigan Congressional District located in Detroit, were:

Representatives Prentiss M. Brown, Frank E. Hook, Louis C. Rabaut, John D. Dingell and John Lestinski.

"This organization is evidently interstate in its operations," asserted Sadowski. "It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal government to stop this crime-fostering organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

### Want Thorough Probe

"The meeting of the Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee," said the Representatives, "was called to demand a thorough investigation and to draft legislation which will bring organizations such as the Black Legion under jurisdiction of the federal government."

He said he hoped a bill covering the desires of the committee could be completed by the end of the week.

A Justice department spokesman indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, for a federal investigation of the society of hooded members.

Detroit—(AP)—The Black Legion, which guarded its secrets with a scourge and pistol and boasted that it could mobilize millions of armed men in 24 hours, was the center of the new investigations today.

The "mobilization," Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said members told him, was to be ordered in the event of a Communist uprising.

The Wayne County Circuit Bench planned to decide by mid-day whether to order the Grand Jury investigation asked by Michigan's Attorney General David H. Crowley of violent deaths, floggings, and firing of buildings in the metropolitan area.

In Cleveland, police reopened their investigations of two unsolved deaths after an anonymous caller had blamed the Black Legion.

### Threat to Davey

In Columbus, O., records of a legislative investigation a year ago disclosed an allegation that the night riders were responsible for threats to kidnap Governor Martin L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, among other acts of intimidation and violence.

In Pontiac, Mich., a citizens' committee undertook an investigation of reports ascribing two deaths, a flogging and the burning of homes of at least two suspected Communists to a secret organization similar to, if not affiliated with the Black Legion.

V. F. Effinger, of Lima, O., spokesman for the national organization of the legion, claimed a total membership of 6,000,000 the country over.

Prosecutor McCrea said he had received letters from persons in 15 or 16 states, among them Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and Colorado ascribing acts of intimidation or violence to the robed and hooded order.

Upon those letters he based his appeal to United States Attorney General Cummings late yesterday for a federal investigation.

The Hartford Times  
May 28, 1936  
Forwarded by New York Office



May 28, 1936

# G-MEN BEING SENT HERE BY DETROIT AUTHORITIES; TERRORIST NOTES FOUND

**Fort Wayne WPA Worker  
Pleads for Police  
Protection.**

## BULLETIN

Municipal Judge Dewey Myers of Indianapolis said today that citizens in northern Indiana were "up in arms" against the operations of the Black Legion.

"I have just returned from a three-day visit to the northern part of the state, and I know that the Black Legion has been operating there," Judge Myers said.

"The members are 'toughs,' and the authorities there are making an investigation to determine to what extent the organization is operating there.

"It is a terrible thing, and the good citizens of the northern part of the state are up in arms against the Black Legion. I am sure that the good citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County will be the same."

By United Press

**MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., May 28.**—A convicted Indiana township official today revealed alleged terrorist activities of an organization known to him as the "Black Knights" which operated in Fort Wayne.

Lawrence F. Hoeltje, former Wayne Township assessor, blamed the "Black Knights" for his conviction on a charge of accepting bribes. He said he refused to carry on their demands and was "too scared" at the time of his trial to reveal their threats.

Marion County Grand Jury investigation of alleged Black Legion activities in Indianapolis was pledged today by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer.

"G-men" are being sent here to investigate "Black Legion" notes uncovered by The Indianapolis Times, Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit announced.

Municipal Judge Dewey Myers, following a trip to northern Indiana, said the Black Legion is active there and that the "good citizens" of that section "are up in arms" against it.

Fort Wayne sheriff probes reported kidnaping of two men by "Mystic Order of Black Snakes."

Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and similar secret orders is requested by Senate resolution, following corresponding House resolution.

Ohio Senate defeats resolution to investigate state activities of Black Legion.

**Messages Promise Calls  
Will Be Made 'at Night  
in Robe.'**

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indianapolis Times)

A grand jury investigation into alleged "Black Legion" activities in Marion County was promised by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer following disclosures today by The Indianapolis Times that purported "Black Legion" documents had been served on Indianapolis citizens.

At the same time Duncan McCrea, Wayne County (Mich.) prosecutor, informed of Indianapolis developments, promised an immediate investigation here by United States Department of Justice agents assigned to his office for interstate duty in the investigation.

Mayor Kern said the city will do everything in its power to prevent the "Black Legion" from operating here. Chief Morrissey and Sheriff Cio. Ray invited any one having "Black Legion" information to give it to police authorities.

The local anti-Black Legion activity was set off today with publication in The Times that two sets of purported "Black Legion" notes had been delivered last night to apartment doors of near North Side apartment houses.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

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The notes promised the occupants that representatives of "The Black Legion" would call "at" night in robes to accept their memberships.

Prosecutor McCrea, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Black Legion documents now in possession of Detroit authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Black Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings."

**"Sound Authentic," He Says**

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle."

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Black Legion is organized there" and has been responsible for at least one outrage. "There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches, on it was typewritten what was interpreted to be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership—  
There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both city and state."

**"Death Is Penalty"**

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"In the name of God and the Devil I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abide (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets or its ex-members."

"Death is the penalty for the breaking of a law or its oath."

"This was followed on one note by the designation '611X7' and a blank preceded the word 'Rank.' The other note bore the number '610X7'."

Last of all, at the bottom, appeared "Black Legion-611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must reorganize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and race on through the night and show them how (apparently typing error) it is done."

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades, we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the cross and cross-bones the terror of the world."

## INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

May 28, 1936

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please sign up now!"

"A Lieutenant will call at your house soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him."

"MAJOR 29K1."

Imprint of Stamp

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.

At the same time, Lima (O.) authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion in their possession indicate that the organization went by various names in the different states and were designated as "Red Legs" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "The Black Snakes."

By United Press

**FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28.**—A frightened WPA

worker today pleaded for police protection from Black Legion vengeance and told Sheriff George W. Gillie of plans for a secret meeting of the black-hooded terrorists tomorrow night.

At the same time, Sheriff Gillie confirmed a tale of terrorism related today by Lawrence F. Hoeltje, former Wayne Township assessor serving a term for bribery in prison at Michigan City.

"We are going to make a thorough investigation and question members of the organization named by Hoeltje as well as all others whose identity we can learn," Gillie said.

## Says Hands Are Tied

The sheriff admitted that at present his hands are tied because no acts of violence have been laid at the Black Legion's door to serve as a basis for formal charges.

"What can we do?" he asked. "Even if we do find out where the meeting is going to be tomorrow night, we haven't anything to charge them with."

Those named by Hoeltje as members of the Black Legion, and who will be questioned first by Gillie are Eldon W. Williams, former deputy township assessor; Jim Joseph, said by Hoeltje to have been the leader of the group which threatened him; William Stute, who owned the woods in which Hoeltje said Black Legion meetings were held.

## FEDERAL HELP SOUGHT AGAIN

**Detroit Prosecutor Suggests Inquiry by Internal Revenue Men.**

By United Press

**DETROIT, May 28.**—Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea today made a second attempt to enlist the aid of Federal officials in his investigation of the Black Legion when he requested the Department of Internal Revenue to inquire into the source of income of Vergil F. Eminger, Lima, O., alleged district commander of the secret organization.

In a letter to Guy T. Helvering, Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, McCrea requested an investigation of Eminger's income, emphasizing that he undoubtedly received money from the sale of the black hoods and robes used by the terrorist band, and from the dues of thousands of members in his district comprising Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Yesterday McCrea asked aid of Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings.

While Detroit police officials pursued their inquiry into reports that five members of the department were members of the Black Legion, Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson sought to involve Eminger on charges of criminal syndicalism in that county.

The Jackson County Grand Jury reopened its hearings into charges of floggings, arson and kidnappings today. As a result of its findings, Dudley said Eminger would be charged with criminal syndicalism because he had appeared in the county last summer in connection with the Black Legion's activities.

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

May 28, 1936

## 'Black Legion' Message Found at Apartments

Comrades:

We must recognize today, as  
suffered a shock that will strike our  
stride but we will not back down. We  
will not race on through the night  
and when the day is done.

The chief has given the word.

"Fellow comrades we must  
not give up. We must make the world  
of the world and our bones are  
fearful of the world."

We must and will take the  
law in our hands before August."

Please sign up now!

A lieutenant will call at your  
house soon. (At night in robe)  
Give your membership to him. He will  
be your leader and you will get all  
information from him.

Major 2941